

Estimates 2005-06 — Additional Estimates, February 2006**Questions on Notice Index—Parliamentary Departments**

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P1	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 5-6, 13/02/06	Ms Penfold—It will have a happy ending. We are still working through with the Department of Finance and Administration the legal implications of how we go about giving away money that is covered by the FMA Act. The current plan is that we will be setting up a special trust account where the Australian currency will go, and then, once a year, we will clean that out and get the foreign coins and hand them both over to the UNICEF people. Senator FAULKNER—Obviously someone—I do not know whether it was the presiding officers, on your recommendation—has made a decision that UNICEF receive these moneys. That is true, isn't it? Ms Penfold—Yes. Senator FAULKNER—I know that because UNICEF in fact wrote to me, thanking me for addressing the issue in Senate estimates. It is rare that I get a congratulatory letter, so I just wanted to get that on the record. Ms Penfold—They have not written to us yet. Senator FAULKNER—The reason probably is that you have not actually given them any money yet, by the sound of it. So you will probably get your letter of thanks when you do so. Ms Penfold—In due course. That is right. You are right: there are two decisions there. The decision was made effectively by the President at the last estimates hearing that the foreign coins would go to UNICEF. The President and the Speaker have subsequently directed us that the Australian money should also go there. Senator FAULKNER—Excellent. You might let us know on notice perhaps when those matters have been finalised. Ms Penfold—Certainly.	Answer Received 30/3/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P2	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 10, 13/02/06	Senator FAULKNER—That is of course a subset of very significant security upgrades around the perimeter of Parliament House. What is the current figure for the broader upgrade? It was around \$12 million, from memory. Ms Penfold—It was \$11.7 million, and we have not gone above that. Senator FAULKNER—You might give us that figure, if you do not have it in front of you, on notice—and perhaps disaggregated into the broad areas. Ms Penfold—Yes, I could get you that.	Answer Received 30/3/06
P3	DPS	Mason	F&PA 15-16, 13/02/06	Ms Penfold—As far as I understand it, on a normal weekend, the entrances are closed from midnight Friday until 6 am Saturday. On Saturdays—and this may be where you have had a problem—they are closed from 8 pm until 6 am Sunday. CHAIR—And does that rule apply on the weekends between sitting weeks as well? Ms Penfold—Yes, I believe so. CHAIR—Was any thought given to not applying that rule on weekends between sitting weeks? I understand why it might apply otherwise. Ms Penfold—I am not aware that there was. CHAIR—Could you have a look at that? Ms Penfold—We could certainly look at it. ... CHAIR—Ms Penfold, could you please look into out-of-hours access on the weekends between sitting weeks? Ms Penfold—We can certainly have a look at whether that ought to be—	Answer Received 30/3/06
P4	DPS	Webber	Written	Attached	Answer Received 30/3/06
P5	Senate	Faulkner	Written	Attached	Answer received 24/02/06
P6	DPS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer Received 30/3/06
P7	Senate	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 24/02/06
P8	DPS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer Received 30/3/06
P9	Senate	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 24/02/06

Please note that answers are due by 30 March 2006.

Written QON

P4

1. Can the Committee be informed of the arrangements regarding the access of Emergency Services vehicles to the Parliamentary precinct?
 2. For example in the instance of a Senator or member of staff requiring an ambulance, will the ambulance be obliged to access the building only via Security Point 1?
 3. Does this raise the possibility of a person being transported on a gurney through the building to the basement car park?
 4. If an Emergency Services vehicle needs access to the building via the Senate, House of Representatives or Ministerial entrances how will such access be granted?
 5. If an Emergency Services vehicle is granted access will both sets of bollards be lowered simultaneously or will the standard operation continue, that being that one set of the bollards is lowered at a time?
 6. When a vehicle moves past the first row of bollards and has to wait until the second row of bollards retract, it is not possible to see when the second bollard has retracted completely. Has this issue been raised with the Department? If so what actions have taken place?
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P5—Citizenship Visits Program

1. How many school students visit Canberra each year under the Parliamentary visit subsidy scheme?
 2. Where do these students come from, broken down by electorate?
 3. When was the last time there was a review of the criteria for determining when the subsidy applies?
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P6 & P7—GENERAL QUESTION TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

1. How many grants have you issued to Hillsong Church, its associated corporations and entities? List name, price and duration of funding by department.
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P8 & P9—GENERAL QUESTION TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

1. How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05?
 - a. How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned?
2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to...
 - a. Bring charges against the accused party
 - b. Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges
 - c. Return the brief for no further action
3. Did the department or agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
 - a. If so, give details.
4. Did the department or agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
 - a. If so, give details.