

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

Questions on Notice (QoN) index –
Department of Parliamentary Services

Answers to QON are due on Friday, 26 March 2010.

QON No.	Department	Senator	08/02/2010 Hansard page ref.	Question
P 1	DPS	Ronaldson	4	<p>Senator RONALDSON—...Mr Kenny, what did the external traffic engineers report actually say? Did it say that there had been accidents or that there was a likelihood of accidents? What was the rationale? According to the article you spent this \$2 million on the back of this external traffic engineers report, so I am interested to know what the report said to justify the \$2 million.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We can provide you with a copy of the report.</p>
P 2	DPS	Kroger	6	<p>Senator KROGER—What would be your estimation of the overall cost from that time, including the current budget—</p> <p>Mr Kenny—The cost of what?</p> <p>Senator KROGER—of the speed humps, the bollards—the current total of \$1.9 million—what would be the overall cost since 2005 invested in that and the road?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—I would have to take on notice the bit about the humps.</p>
P 3	DPS	Ferguson	8	<p>Senator FERGUSON—I have been in this place since 1992 and I cannot remember, during sitting weeks anyway, any motor vehicle accident ever having taken place or any pedestrian ever having been injured. We seem to continually go ahead with trying to improve these things when I am not sure that it is necessary.</p> <p>Senator PARRY—Apart from accidents with bollards.</p> <p>Senator FERGUSON—Could you find out whether there have been any accidents?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We can try.</p>
P 4	DPS	Ronaldson	11	<p>Ms Graham—The review of the security roster was commissioned in late 2008. The review that identified that there were opportunities to improve the roster was completed prior to that. I do not have the exact date. I can get that for you.</p>
P 5	DPS	Ferguson	14	<p>Senator FERGUSON—I understand all that rationale, but it still does not explain the decision to increase the numbers of staff. I would like you to go back and see whether there is any record of the decision that was made to increase staff in 2007-08, because I certainly do not remember it.</p>
P 6	DPS	Ferguson	14,15	<p>Senator FERGUSON—I understand that there was a person involved who was specifically involved</p>

				<p>from the loading dock to the next stage who made sure that the mail was pointed in the right direction, for want of a better term. Is that person still employed?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FERGUSON—The only reason I asked this question is that I had an urgent delivery from an embassy Thursday week ago, and so that I could get it they took it to the loading dock where they saw it marked urgent. That was Thursday a week ago and I still have not received it.</p> <p>Ms Konig—We can certainly look into the specifics of that and get back to you.</p>
P 7	DPS	Ronaldson	20	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Could you take it on notice, please, and let me know how many members of that workplace consultative committee have resigned.</p> <p>Ms Graham—Certainly, Senator.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—Over what period were you asking about?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—The last three years.</p>
P 8	DPS	Ronaldson	20	<p>Senator RONALDSON—I understand that the review said that the operations in the security room were 50 per cent overpaid and 30 per cent overmanned. Is that what the report indicated?</p> <p>Ms Graham—I do not recall those words exactly.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Did the report say it was overmanned?</p> <p>Ms Graham—I would have to confirm the exact wording of the report.</p>
P 9	DPS	Ronaldson	21	<p>Ms Graham—I am certainly not in a position to say whether or not Mr Konig did go into the control room...</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—If you could take that on notice, I would be grateful, thank you.</p>
P 10	DPS	Ronaldson	23	<p>Senator RONALDSON—...Would you take this on notice. Has there been any damage reported to suite MG8 since October 2009? If so, can the committee please be provided with details of the damage that occurred and any associated repair costs.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I will ask Freda Handley, who is looking after Infrastructure Services, to come forward. My understanding is that for MG8 there has been no damage but there has been a small amount of maintenance work done which would be typical of a lot of the suites. I will ask Freda if she has any more information on that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I am happy to take that on notice given the time and I know my colleagues have got some questions.</p>
P 11	DPS	Ferguson	24	<p>Senator FERGUSON—So when were they [plant contractors] told finally that the contract would not be renewed?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—I will have to take that on notice.</p>
P 12	DPS	Ferguson	25	<p>Senator FERGUSON—If you saved \$120,000 by removing all the pot plants from private areas, how much is it costing you to maintain the pot plants in the public areas?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We will have to take that on notice and get some calculations done.</p>
P 13	DPS	Ferguson	25	<p>Mr Kenny—I am sorry, maybe I am misunderstanding you. In the previous arrangements, until last month, we paid \$120,000 for the hire, or the lease and maintenance, of the pot plants in the building.</p>

				<p>Senator FERGUSON—Is that public viewing areas and private viewing areas? Mr Kenny—That is correct. Senator FERGUSON—What component of that is private? You must know how much that you are going to— Mr Kenny—We do, but I do not have the numbers here.</p>
P 14 ¹	DPS	Parry	28	<p>Senator PARRY—In concluding, can I request that for the May budget estimates that we have this detail? I have asked for it now on three separate occasions. I want the detail of the cost benefits of reducing security points if senators and members carried passes and any perceived threat if the screening was eliminated for senators and members and authorised pass holders as they enter the building. It seems to be a cumbersome process. There are other security threats greater than us entering the building every morning. If that could be taken on notice and detailed information on it provided at the next estimates, that would be good. Mr Thompson—There are two parts to your request. The part about us doing some internal costings we can commit to. As to the risk assessment from the Attorney-General's Department, we will go away and we will ask them for that. I hope that they are able to deliver it on time.</p>
P 15 ²	DPS	Collins	29	<p>Senator JACINTA COLLINS—If that is the case, Senator Parry, I am interested in seeing these internal aspects. I continue to be frustrated by incapacity to move around the building, particularly when we are not sitting. If we are utilising passes, particularly those upstairs entrances that are closed could be available for a swipe or something with a pass so that you could move through them. I am interested in that aspect as well. Mr Thomson—Senators, we can come back in May with a progress report.</p>
P 16	DPS	Ronaldson	29	<p>Ms Graham—If they were the reasons for the other two people resigning, they were not brought to my attention. Generally when we have staff reps resign from the consultative forum they do not provide a reason. We generally do have an informal chat with them and I am not aware, in those two particular instances, of the staff raising concerns with the process. Senator RONALDSON—Did you personally speak to those two reps? Ms Graham—I did not speak with them personally. Senator RONALDSON—You can take it on notice please whether anyone else spoke to them in a debrief and whether they had expressed their concerns to whoever they spoke to about the consultative process and that being the reason for their resignation.</p>
P 17	DPS	Ronaldson	30	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Mr Kenny, just on that: I was advised by a colleague 10 minutes ago that they bought the pot plant and the pot, which was similar—clearly not the same pot, but a similar pot came with the pot plant and that was \$25 for the pot and pot plant. Is that correct? Mr Kenny—Senator, I presume it is correct. It is not something that DPS would have been involved in. Senator RONALDSON—It is because they are your pots. That is my point. For the price of \$25 the pot</p>

¹ Due by May Budget Estimates 2010

² Due by May Budget Estimates 2010

				<p>plant came with a pot which was a similar pot to the one that was removed.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We will have to look into that. I am not aware of us having sold any pots.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Will you take that on notice please?</p>
P 18	DPS	Ferguson	30	<p>Senator FERGUSON—How many plants did you get for \$26,000?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—I will have to get that one—</p> <p>Senator FERGUSON—Could you please find out? I just want to make sure they got a good deal.</p>
P 19a	DPS	Parry	31	<p>Mr Kenny—The help desk—or 2020—supports Parliament House members and senators, their staff, all the parliamentary departments and all the electorate offices.</p> <p>Senator PARRY—So what you are saying is you cannot break it down.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—I can take on notice and provide you some statistics possibly along the lines of the total number of calls and the duration of calls—that sort of thing.</p>
P 19b	DPS	Parry	31	<p>Senator PARRY—That is just for 2020. What about the delivery and issuing of the equipment and those sorts of things?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We have costs on all of that.</p> <p>Senator PARRY—It would be appreciated if you could provide that on notice.</p>
P 19c	DPS	Parry	31	<p>Senator PARRY—... Have you any analysis or cost breakdowns of what it would cost per suite for the IT provision?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—Again, I would have to take that on notice. We could probably do something at a fairly coarse level.</p>
P 20	DPS	Kroger	33	<p>Mr Kenny—... I am aware of people having had problems synchronising and having had different sorts of problems with car kits and reliability...What we will do is have a look at the call logs to see if there is a bit more information and then see where we need to go to next. If it is a car kit thing, for example, then it is probably a thing for the Finance people and your state manager to assist with.</p> <p>Senator KROGER—The car kits have been replaced twice, so I do not believe it is the car kit...</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We will look at the history and see what we can do. Certainly it sounds like the problems you are having, whilst not unheard of, should be fixed.</p>
P 21	DPS	Ryan	33	<p>Senator RYAN—...I have had new sites blocked; I am now compiling a folder of these particular printouts when sites get blocked...But can you have a look at this as soon as you can?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—Yes, we will absolutely have a look and—</p> <p>Senator RYAN—And particularly at those two examples: in January, Metro Trains—or Metlink, apparently is what the website was—and, on this occasion, the Punch in February.</p>
P 22	DPS	(Bob) Brown	34	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—I would suggest a new approach which involves ensuring a straight through walkway/bikeway from Civic to Parliament House. Just looking at the terrain, that is going to involve some new bridgework, specifically for that purpose, otherwise we get caught up with the old problem of it being intersected by roadways. It would be good to look at what can be done to make pedestrian and bike access to this great Parliament House easy, simple and straightforward—and particularly for visitors who are making their once only trip to Canberra. So I would be very pleased if you would take it on notice and let senators know what the options are and what the way forward is there.</p>

