

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010

**Question: PM90**

**Topic: NAA – closure of offices**

**Type of Question: written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Question:**

Senator Xenophon

**The NAA states as one of its outcomes that “Australians have access to a national archival collection that assists them to understand their heritage and democracy”.**

- a) How is this consistent with closing the offices in Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart?
- b) What consultation process did the NAA go through before making the decision to close these offices?
- c) Where there any other options (eg. limiting opening hours, reducing staff numbers etc) considered as money-saving measures for these offices, rather than outright closure?
- d) How many people visited these offices last year?
- e) What means were used to publicise these offices, and how much funding was used to so publicise?
- f) What was the cost of running the offices in Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart – the offices that will close?

**Answer:** On 23 February 2010 the Cabinet Secretary, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig announced that Archives will maintain a local presence in each state and territory. Instead of closing the Archives offices in Darwin, Adelaide and Hobart they will remain open until a permanent solution involving co-location with a local organisation has been found.