

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Additional Budget Estimates Hearing—February 2011**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Independent assessment of APH catering service**

Question: **13**

Hansard reference **F&PA p.32, 21 February 2011**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011**

**Senator PARRY**—I know I have raised this in a different forum, in particular in the House Committee: has there been an independent analysis on whether or not it would be more cost effective to run the entire catering and dining services in house?

...

**Mr Thompson**—I do not have the details of that with me right now, but we did an analysis. I think it was done by a company called Grey Advantage. We would have to take that on notice.

**Answer**

1 DPS considered the viability of providing catering services using an in-house model in 2009. As part of this analysis, DPS received advice from external consulting firm Grey Advantage. Grey Advantage possessed relevant catering industry experience and was already familiar with the catering arrangements at Parliament House, due to its role in independently reviewing financial accounts of the then caterer.

2 The external advice summarised that the establishment of an in-house catering service would not be cost effective as the in-house option would increase operating costs to DPS. There would also be one-off transition costs of more than \$600,000.