

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Artworks consultancy on AusTender**

Question: **22**

Hansard reference **F&PA pp20–21, 21 February 2011**

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

Senator FIFIELD—Which is \$55,000 for arts consultancy services from 20 July 2010 to 2 September 2010.

Mr Thompson—I am not aware of any expenditure over that short period. We have a longer term appointment which Merryn Gates fulfils, but it is certainly not a figure like that over two or three months.

...

Senator FIFIELD—Could you advise what the purpose of that consultancy is and if those details are correct.¹

Answer

1 DPS contracts a qualified independent consultant to identify artworks suitable for addition to the Parliament House Art Collection (**PHAC**). In nominating works for acquisition, the consultant:

- (a) has regard to the acquisition policy and collecting priorities (if any) nominated by the Art Advisory Committee (**AAC**); and
- (b) works to an annual acquisitions budget.

2 Where the consultant nominates a work for acquisition, she provides a completed proposal form for consideration by the AAC and, if requested, attends a meeting of the AAC to discuss the proposed acquisition.

3 DPS has an ongoing need for the services of the art consultant, given the approval by the Presiding Officers of a new three-year plan for art acquisitions.

4 The current consulting services contract has a value of \$55,000, for the period September 2010 to September 2011. Unfortunately the dates were listed in AusTender incorrectly. This has now been rectified.

¹ Partly Answered in the Hansard transcript, p. 50, 21/02/2011