

**FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**  
**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 21-22 FEBRUARY 2011**  
**PARLIAMENT**

<b>Q No.</b>	<b>Program: Division or Agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Broad Topic</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Proof Hansard Page &amp; Hearing Date or Written Q</b>	<b>Date Rec'd</b>	<b>Date Tabled</b>
1	Senate	Kroger	References to Senate Committees	<p><b>Senator KROGER</b>—You note that there are 42 references for this parliamentary year to date. How does that compare to last year at the same point in time?</p> <p><b>Dr Laing</b>—I will take that on notice and give you a comparison of the references to the point we are in this parliament with the first year of the last parliament?</p> <p><b>Senator KROGER</b>—Yes, where we are in the 43rd. Given your experience, is there a sense that we have not perhaps had as many references at this point in time as we had in the 42nd Parliament, when there were 309 in total?</p> <p><b>Dr Laing</b>—Based on a gut feeling rather than a scientific analysis, I would agree with you that we are a bit below.</p>	p. 7 21/02/2011	21/02/11	
2	Senate	Fifield	Sales of the Annotated standing orders	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—Dr Laing, how are the sales of the annotated standing orders travelling?</p> <p><b>Dr Laing</b>—It is not a best seller. It was never intended to be a best seller. The actual number of sales I will get for you on notice. It is a modest amount. I think that we are on the way to covering our printing costs. Although it looks like a very nice book, it was actually a very modest production.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—I have no doubt. It is a cracker of a book. I just did not want it to go unappreciated today.</p>	p. 7 21/02/2011	21/02/11	
3	Senate	Cormann	Broadcasting from room 1R1	<p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—Is it a matter of a lack of resources for not being able to video broadcast proceedings from the venue 1R1 rather than 2R1?... You do not have mobile cameras for these purposes?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—We do have mobile cameras that we set up for special events. I do not know whether we have ever been asked to use such a facility for—</p> <p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—Can I urge you to go on notice to consider the issue that I have raised. I think it sets a highly unsatisfactory precedent that an important Senate estimates committee—they are all important of course—</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—Can I suggest that it is a question for the Senate department rather than us.</p> <p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—I think it is a question for both of you. It is a question as to where the estimates committees are taking place. It is then a question as to where they can be broadcast from and where they cannot. I guess the question for you is the broadcasting question.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator Hogg</b>—...I can ask the Department of the Senate—I was not aware of the</p>	pp 44-45 21/02/2011	21/03/11	

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				change—but I do know that what the officer said about not all rooms being set up to allow telecast and/or broadcast; I am not sure about the broadcast, I think most of them can do audio. Some of them are not set up for visual. Their advice there is the advice that I would have to take and I think that that is right, but I will ask the Department of the Senate to get an answer for you... I will get the Usher of the Black Rod to get back to you directly.			
4	Senate	Polley	Inquiry references to Senate Committees	<b>CHAIR</b> —Can you take on notice and give us a breakdown of the number of references we have had to our committees over the last decade so we can see what sort of decline or increase there has been?	p. 46 21/02/2011	21/03/11	
5	Senate	Abetz		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department and/or agencies within the portfolio <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Obtained any <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Goods</li> <li>ii. Services, including consultancy advice from the ACTU or any unions since December 2007</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Paid any monies to the ACTU or any unions for any purpose since December 2007? If so, in each instance, what <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Goods and services have been obtained?</li> <li>ii. Has been the purpose of these payments?</li> <li>iii. What amounts have been paid?</li> <li>iv. To whom have they been paid?</li> <li>v. When were they paid?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	21/03/11	
6	DPS Program 1.1	Ronaldson	Review of staffing levels within the Parliamentary Library	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Who is doing the review?</p> <p><b>Ms Missingham</b>—HBA Consulting.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Are you happy to provide their terms of reference to the committee?</p> <p><b>Ms Missingham</b>—Yes, I am.</p>	p. 17 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
7	DPS Program 1.1	Ronaldson	Director Law and Bills Digest	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—How many candidates were there for the position after it was advertised?</p> <p><b>Ms Missingham</b>—I think there were five. I would have to confirm that</p>	pp 18-19 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
8	DPS Program 1.1	Ronaldson	Previous Director Economics	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—What were the qualifications of the previous director? Do you know?</p> <p><b>Ms Missingham</b>—I do not have the previous director's qualifications on me. I think I would have to take that on notice.</p>	p. 32 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
9	DPS Program 2.1	Parry	Passholders at APH	<p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We have aggregate data about the numbers passing through the various entrances. How that breaks up between pass-holders and parliamentarians, I am not so sure.</p> <p><b>Senator PARRY</b>—One would assume 150 MPs—leaving out the ministerial entrance</p>	p. 24 21/02/2011	06/04/11	

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				number—would enter the House of Representatives entrance and 76 senators would enter the Senate entrance. Would passholders double that number for the House of Representatives or would it be about even for both the House of Representatives and the Senate? Can that be provided on notice, including the number for the ministerial entrance?			
10	DPS Program 2.1	Parry/ Fifield	Exemptions to security screenings	<p><b>Ms Graham</b>—We have a policy arrangement whereby certain people are exempt from screening in certain situations. I understand that for the opening of parliament the Governor-General is exempt from screening. The intention of that policy is that only the Governor-General is exempt and the entourage would not be. I would need to take on notice the detail of that.</p> <p><b>Senator PARRY</b>—Could you confirm that. From my observation that was not the case.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—The justices of the High Court?</p> <p><b>Ms Graham</b>—The justices would be included in that as well.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—What would you include them in?</p> <p><b>Ms Graham</b>—Being exempt from screening for those ceremonial events.</p>	p. 24 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
11	DPS Program 2.1	Fifield	Exemptions for security screenings	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—They are trusted for a day a year. Apart from those sorts of occasions and visiting heads of government and heads of state, are there any individuals in any other capacity who enjoy an exemption from security screening?</p> <p><b>Ms Graham</b>—Off the top of my head, no, there is not. I would like to double-check. Certainly the issue of exemptions comes up on a regular basis within the security section and our standard response is that all people and goods entering the building undergo a screening unless exempted.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—If you could take on notice whether there are any other individuals who are exempted at any other times.</p>	p. 25 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
12	DPS Program 2.1	Faulkner	Car-parking pressures at APH	<p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Do you know what this has meant in terms of the revenue raised by the ACT parking authorities?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—It was well signposted but my understanding is that there was initial blip. Because most people understand that it is being enforced, it has settled down and it is now very modest. There is now an understanding that if you park there beyond three hours you will be booked.</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Can you tell us what the initial blip was, or do you need to take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—No, we would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—I would appreciate that, and I would appreciate having the current figures if you can provide them to us.</p>	p. 27 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
13	DPS Program 2.2	Parry	Independent Assessment of the APH	<p><b>Senator PARRY</b>—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 inhouse?</p>	p. 32 21/02/2011	06/04/11	

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			catering service	... <b>Mr Thompson</b> —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.			
14	DPS Program 3.1	Kroger	Water features at APH	<b>Senator KROGER</b> —May I say it is fantastic looking out and seeing all our water features going again. It is good for the soul, I think. What costs were involved in recommissioning the ones back to the original mains and getting them working again?... If you could take on notice if there were any structural requirements in bringing them back online, that would be great.	pp 49-50 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
15	DPS Program 3.1	Humphries	elevator technician	In relation to an article appearing in <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> concerning the employment of Mr Darryl Potts “an elevator technician at Federal Parliament”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When was Darryl Potts first employed in Parliament House?</li> <li>• What was the nature of his employment?</li> <li>• What security checks or screening were done before the employment of Mr Potts?</li> <li>• Can you provide copies of this paperwork?</li> <li>• Is Darryl Potts still employed in Parliament House?</li> <li>• If not, when did he cease employment?</li> <li>• If his employment has ceased, was it as a result of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an end of contract,</li> <li>• resignation, or</li> <li>• termination?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• When did the department become aware of the issues raised in the article in <i>The Daily Telegraph</i>?</li> </ul>	Written (Article attached)	06/04/11	
16	DPS Program 3.1	Fifield	elevator technician	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does elevator technician Mr Darryl Potts have a Parliament House security pass?</li> <li>2. Does he have access to other Government buildings?</li> <li>3. If so, which buildings?</li> <li>4. How often is Mr Potts at Parliament House? Is it his home base?</li> <li>5. Is the Department aware that Mr Potts has been evaluated by a psychiatrist as a threat to public safety?</li> <li>6. It has been revealed that Mr Potts has posted anti-Semitic and other offensive posts to various internet sites from Parliament House computers. Has any disciplinary action been taken against Mr Potts?</li> <li>7. What is the current status of Mr Pott’s employment with the Department of Parliamentary Services?</li> </ol>	Written	06/04/11	
17	DPS Program 3.2	Ryan	Workload on IT after the power switch-off at Christmas and	<b>Senator RYAN</b> —...I want to ask about the office switch-off that happens over Christmas and New Year and in the winter break... The power switch-off has actually increased the burden of work on IT... Printers just do not work. They do not reconnect. Drivers sometimes need to be reinstalled when things are turned off for months at a time.	p. 37 21/02/2011	06/04/11	



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22	DPS Program 5	Fifield	Arts consultancy on AusTender	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—Which is \$55,000 for arts consultancy services from 20 July 2010 to 2 September 2010.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—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.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Could you advise what the purpose of that consultancy is and if those details are correct.<sup>1</sup></p>	pp 20-21 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
23	DPS Program 5	Fifield	Artworks purchases	<p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We have an annual budget which, for 2010-11, is \$200,000. As of now, we have spent around \$137,000 of that. That comprises a little under \$100,000 on some major works which have been approved by the Art Advisory Committee, and a larger number of small works—53 of them, approved by me—for a sum total of \$37,500. We would expect, by 30 June, to have spent most of the rest. I might add that all of these works are by Australian artists and our aim is to meet the needs of senators and members primarily in terms of their needs for their suites.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—Thank you. Could you provide a list of those purchases according to those contracts?</p>	p. 21 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
24	DPS Program 5	Humphries	Solar panel trials	<p>The Canberra Times published on 17 January 2011 that the DPS would be installing solar panels on the roofs of some buildings at Parliament House.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the cost of the installation of these panels?</li> <li>2. Is the DPS applying or planning on applying for rebates either from the Federal or ACT Governments?</li> <li>3. If so, what programs and how much?</li> <li>4. When does DPS expect these panels to be fully installed?</li> </ol>	Written	06/04/11	
25	DPS Corporate Services	Faulkner	Original cost of the billiard tables	<p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—You might take this on notice for me. I would be very interested to know—that is not right; it is not true to say ‘I would be very interested to know’. You might let us know the original cost of the billiard tables.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—In constant dollar terms?</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—No. We can make our own judgments. This is a very clever committee, Senator. If none of the rest of us can do it, I know that you would be able to help.</p>	p. 12 21/02/2011	06/04/11	

<sup>1</sup> Partly answered in the Hansard transcript, p. 50, 21/02/2011  
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26	DPS Corporate Services	Faulkner	Billiard tables at APH	<p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—... I want to get some clarity on the sale of the billiards tables... What is the current status? I was trying to find what the original status was and what the situation is now.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—We will take on notice that question about what was there originally. There are currently two on the House of Representatives side... We will have to take on notice how many were there when the building opened.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—How many on the Senate side now?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—There are none.</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—And how many were there five years ago?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—I do not know. We would have to take the question on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—I would appreciate your taking on notice to detail how this situation has evolved since the building opened. How many of these tables came from Old Parliament House?</p>	p. 29 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
27	DPS Corporate Services	Faulkner	Heritage assessments of the Billiard tables at APH	<p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Could you provide copies of the heritage assessment and the valuation of these to the committee, please?... I would also be interested to hear about the status of the other billiard or pool tables and what their heritage values might be. In other words, which of these may have come from Old Parliament House and what is the historical background of their acquisition or transfer to new Parliament House? I would appreciate that information, if it could all be made available.</p>	p. 30 21/02/2011	06/04/11	
28	DPS Corporate Services	Abetz	business dealings with ACTU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department and/or agencies within the portfolio <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Obtained any <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Goods</li> <li>ii. Services, including consultancy advice from the ACTU or any unions since December 2007</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Paid any monies to the ACTU or any unions for any purpose since December 2007? If so, in each instance, what <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Goods and services have been obtained?</li> <li>ii. Has been the purpose of these payments?</li> <li>iii. What amounts have been paid?</li> <li>iv. To whom have they been paid?</li> <li>v. When were they paid?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	06/04/11	
29	DPS Corporate Services	Siewert	Workplace Bullying	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many of the five reported bullies in 2009-10 have histories of being difficult to work with within work teams? Has the Department addressed their behaviour with performance improvement plans before moving them to other work sections?</li> <li>2. How many of the five have been promoted or are acting in higher positions since 2009-10?</li> </ol>	Written	06/04/11	

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				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. How many of the five were informed they were indicated as bullies in exit surveys? If not why not?</li> <li>4. Will the Department introduce a 'two strikes and you're out' policy for reported bullies to encourage them to change their behaviours before they are asked to leave the Department?</li> <li>5. What is the current length of time it takes for the Secretary, Assistant Secretary of DPS HR to be informed of reported bullies?</li> <li>6. Does DPS follow-up to see how staff are going after they leave the Department because of bullying? Do bullied staff who leave the Department get informed as to what actions were taken to change the reported bullies behaviour?</li> </ol>			