

## **Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Budget Estimates May 2006**

### **Answers to Questions on Notice**

#### **Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services**

##### **Topic: Cost of potted plants for Parliament House**

##### **Question P3, F&PA 45**

Senator FAULKNER—What is the annual cost to the parliament of these pot plants?

Mr Smith—There is a contract for the supply, care and maintenance of the plants. I think it is somewhere around the \$100,000 per year mark, but I do not have the exact number.

Senator FAULKNER—Could you establish that for us?

Mr Smith—Yes, Senator, I will take that on notice.

Senator FAULKNER—What benefit do we get from this \$100,000 a year?

Senator ROBERT RAY—Apart from bringing in mosquitoes, of course!

Mr Smith—I think it breaks up some of the harder architectural features with a bit of softer vegetation. It does provide a bit of air quality improvement. I could not put a precise figure on that.

Senator FAULKNER—But surely we can get a precise figure on what it costs us and how many of these plants there are in the place, because there are an awful lot, aren't there? It is not just senators and members, is it?

##### **Answer:**

DPS has a contract for the supply, care and maintenance of indoor plants. The annual cost of that contract in 2005-6 was \$122,000.

There are currently 1,122 indoor potted plants supplied under the contract. They are distributed throughout the building as follows:

Senators' suites	126
Senate circulation and department offices	121
Members' suites	328
HoR's circulation and department offices	116
Ministers' suites	28
Ministerial Wing circulation	24

Five special suites	63
Dining rooms	118
Public circulation	50
General circulation	111
DPS offices	37
Total	<b>1,122</b>