

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Budget Estimates May 2007

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

## Answers to Questions on Notice

**Topic: Security Management Board consideration of police checks**

### Question P8

**Senator FAULKNER**—When did the Security Management Board come up with the idea about the police checks issue?

**Ms Penfold**—The policy was sent to the Presiding Officers in the second half of last year. I could find an exact date at some point for you. It has been under discussion by the Security Management Board for the best part of three years. I think that there were some police checks in the policy at the point when I came to the department but I could not give you a guarantee of that. We would have to go back through Security Management Board minutes over, as I said, those three years to see at what point police checks on groups were raised.

### Answer

The draft policy as recommended by the Security Management Board was sent to the Presiding Officers on 7 September 2006.

DPS records show that:

- (a) in October 2002, the Interim Security Management Board (**SMB**) discussed the vetting of passholders;
- (b) in November 2002, SMB considered a recommendation to standardise the photographic pass initial application process; and
- (c) in December 2003, SMB agreed that a police records check should be the minimum security requirement for photographic passholders.