

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

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Topic: Parlinfo journals backlog

Question P18

Senator FAULKNER—Thank you for that. The only other thing I was going to ask for in relation to the Parliamentary Library was a very brief update in terms of the journals backlog waiting to be added into ParlInfo. Are you able to give us a status report on that?

Ms Adcock—I cannot give you the exact figures. There is still some backlog, but I could take that on notice.

Answer

There are two backlogs of individual journal articles waiting to be added to the Journal Articles database on ParlInfo.

The first is of material waiting to be scanned and loaded as full text items. As at 12 June 2007, 983 individual articles were in this backlog. By comparison, as at 30 June 2006 this backlog was estimated to be 75 articles. The reason this backlog has increased in recent months is that the unit which scans this material has had staff vacancies. Three vacancies have been filled recently and the unit is expected to be fully staffed by mid-July 2007.

The second backlog is of individual journal articles which have been loaded to the database and are available for full text searching, with metadata attached (author, title, article title, journal title, date, pagination) but have not yet been subject-indexed. As at 12 June 2007, 944 individual journal articles were in the subject indexing backlog. By comparison, as at 30 June 2006 this backlog was estimated to be 2,340 articles. The reason this backlog has been decreasing over the past year is that the subject indexing team is now fully staffed.