

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2010

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Accessibility to some websites**

Question: **P 10**

Hansard reference **F&PA 53, 24 May 2010**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010**

**Mr Kenny**—It is possible that the blocking software changes, because obviously the people that write these tools have to have a dynamic capability so that if new sites become known about and have to be blocked then they can update the databases that we have running here.

**Senator RYAN**—It seems to have a particular problem with *The Punch*.

**Mr Kenny**—I am sorry. When it is unblocked, that unblock should be an ongoing unblock. I will take on notice and investigate for you exactly what has happened over the last, say, six months and why it has been blocked and then become unavailable again.

#### Answer

1 The website "ThePunch.com.au" has intermittently been blocked in the last six months by the software provider categorising it as a "games" site. Exact dates are unavailable.

2 On the occasions that this has been reported, the website had again been unblocked by the vendor by the time that technical staff investigated. Hence no remediation action was performed on those occasions.

3 The website was incorrectly categorised as a "games" site again on 3 June 2010, and has been permanently unblocked by DPS.