

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2012

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Parliament House 25<sup>th</sup> birthday**

Question: **226**

Hansard reference **F&PA p.52, 15 October 2012**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012**

**CHAIR:** Could you take it on notice to provide some information in relation to the celebrations of this building's 25th birthday? I was wondering if you could inform the committee what has been planned or what the outline is for that celebration. Could you take it on notice?

**Ms Mills:** I will.

### Answer

A joint parliamentary departments steering committee was formed on 15 July 2011, to organise Parliament House events celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 9 May 2013. As well as developing a program for the anniversary, the steering committee has been liaising with Centenary staff to coordinate events consistent with the Centenary themes.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary program is currently in draft, with some dates still to be confirmed. At this stage, there are a range of scheduled activities throughout the year, such as the following.

- Parliament House will be participating in Enlighten 2013.
- Launch of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative book on the commissioned art and craft work in Parliament House (15 May 2013). The artists and craftspeople featured in the book will be invited to Canberra for the launch, which will coincide with the Association of Former Members of the Parliament of Australia (AFMPA) annual meeting so that members can attend the launch.
- Promotional activity for the Australian Ballet's Centenary performances in Canberra scheduled for late May 2013.
- A Parliament House Open Day on 14 September 2013. The theme for the Open Day is "Threads of our Nation". A small working group comprising of representatives from the two Chamber departments and DPS has been formed to coordinate and plan events. It is intended that Parliament's Great Hall will be transformed into a journey through 25 years of Capital Hill history. Special tours will open up the parliamentary chambers and other areas of Parliament House.

In addition, DPS—as the lead agency for tourism in Parliament House—is developing a range of initiatives for 2013, including:

- an expanded visitor tours program;
- an app for self-guided tours of the building;
- special exhibitions, including a focus on landmark events that have taken place in Parliament House since it opened;

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- an oral history project to record the stories of parliamentarians' and workers' engagement with Parliament House;
- an enhanced online visitor experience that celebrates and informs the community about the nature and working of Parliament; and
- recognition of the success of the lead architect, Mr Giurgola AO, his team and the many other contributors to the commissioning, design, construction and operation of Parliament House.

It is anticipated that there will be launch events for some of these initiatives, which will bring together the parliamentary and wider community in celebrating the anniversary.