



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
SENATOR THE HONOURABLE SCOTT RYAN

25 May 2021

Senator Claire Chandler
Chair,
Finance & Public Administration References Committee
by email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Chandler,

Attached are answers to questions from Senator Waters at Estimates hearings yesterday morning, regarding events in the Great Hall on May 11. Please note the questions are drawn from draft Hansard transcripts, so please excuse any small errors in the transcript.

Yours sincerely,

SCOTT RYAN

1. **Senator WATERS:** *Thank you very much. I move now to budget night revelry. It was reported that on budget night a whole bunch of incredibly wealthy people were invited to attend a budget party in the Great Hall. How much did that event cost and who paid for it?*

Answer: The venue was hired by the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) as a Tier 3 (non-parliamentary) event under the APH Events policy which is available on the website at [https://www.aph.gov.au/About Parliament/Parliamentary Departments/Department of Parliamentary Services/policies](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Department_of_Parliamentary_Services/policies).

The policy notes APH can be used for a variety of events and Tier 3 events can include political or other fundraising events. Under the policy, DPS charges fees for room hire, food and beverage charges, security and any related costs incurred by DPS. These charges are set out on page 7 of the policy and vary depending on the type of event package selected, duration of time and number of attendees. The estimated cost for the event in the Great Hall is \$67,700.00.

2. **Senator WATERS:** *In this instance, was it a private event that was booked?*

Answer: Yes.

3. **Senator WATERS:** *Okay. Who paid the bill to DPS, then? The coalition?*

Answer: The invoice will be sent to the organiser, the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division).

All costs for events held at APH are finalised after the completion of the event by APH Catering and Events (this allows for any late changes in numbers, additional charges etc). DPS' will shortly issue invoices to the organisers for all Budget week events (including the Great Hall). There is a standard payment term of 30 days for event clients to pay these fees.

4. **Senator WATERS:** *Great. Can I substitute a few additional questions? I'm interested in who made the reservation to use the Great Hall, and I'm interested in who paid the invoice to DPS for the venue hire and the catering and booze costs.*

Answer: Please see answers to questions 1 and 3.