

Statement from the Secretary, Department of Finance – 2021-22 Budget Estimates – May 2021

- At the previous Senate Estimates hearing of 23 March 2021, I made a statement to the Committee regarding advice that I had received from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner of the need to exercise caution in responding to questions regarding the alleged sexual assault at Parliament House in 2019 in order not to compromise a criminal investigation. At that hearing we took a number of questions on notice to consider what further information could be provided, in consultation with the police. Responses to these questions have now been tabled.
- I have engaged further with the AFP, and in particular with AFP Commissioner Kershaw and the ACT Chief Police Officer, Deputy Commissioner Gaughan, whose jurisdiction is undertaking the investigation, in preparing for these Estimates. The AFP and ACT Policing continue to advise of the need for caution, particularly regarding our knowledge of the events of the 23rd March and the days following to ensure that their investigation, and any possible future prosecution, are not compromised.
- Finance will continue to assist the Committee as appropriate either in our responses, or on notice. We will continue to do so noting our obligation, however I do expect that some questions will be required to be taken on notice, including so that we can consult with relevant authorities on what further information can be provided.

F&PA Legislation Committee

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By: Ms Rosemary Huxtable

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