



DPS ref: 11/1387

15 May 2012

Ms Christine McDonald
Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
PO Box 6000
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

Inquiry into the Performance of DPS

Your letter of 10 May 2012 requested copies of briefings—that DPS prepared for the Supplementary Estimates October 2010 and the Budget Estimates May 2011—that were referenced in a DPS Minute of 21 August 2011, tabled at the Committee hearing on 2 May 2012.

Those briefings (CFO AS briefs #s 5 and 6 respectively) are at **Attachment A** and **Attachment B**.

Yours sincerely

Russell D. Grove
Acting Secretary

5 Sale of Billiard Tables

Issues

- 2 full size billiards tables and one pool table from the Staff Recreation Room were disposed of by public auction.

Talking points

1 Reason for disposal

- Due to the planned conversion of the Staff Recreation Room and adjoining void space into office accommodation, the recreation equipment located in the area: namely a piano, one pool table, two billiard tables, and two table tennis tables were removed and relocated as follows.
 - (i) Piano—relocated to the Capital Hill Early Childhood Centre.
 - (ii) Table Tennis tables—one table was relocated to the Health and Recreation Centre; and the other table is yet to be disposed of through public auction.
 - (iii) Billiard tables—the two billiard tables were disposed of through public auction.
 - (iv) Pool table—disposed of through public auction.

2 Auction

- The public auction on 22 July 2010, realised \$6,998 for the three tables:
 - (i) one billiard table \$2,500—which met reserve;
 - (ii) the other billiard table \$2,488—\$12 short of reserve; and
 - (iii) the pool table \$2,000—which met reserve.
- Both billiard tables had a book value of \$1,500 at time of disposal.

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(Background information over the page

Background information

- The Joint House Committee at its meeting of 21 June 2010 noted that the billiard tables and pool table would be disposed to allow the planned conversion of the Staff Recreation Room to office accommodation.
- The Health and Recreation Centre managed bookings for the billiards and pool table in the Staff Recreation Room and, during the period November 2009 to May 2010, received no bookings for the tables.
- The billiards and pool table were part of the original fit-out of Parliament House. The billiard tables are general assets and do not have heritage value attributed to them.
- In July 1996, 2 billiard tables which were declared surplus and were gifted to Old Parliament House.
- 2 billiard tables remain in the HoR Alcove near the Members' Guests Dining Room and continue to be maintained.

6 Billiard tables

Issues

- What is the history of the Billiard tables at Parliament House

Talking points

1 Billiard tables as at 1989

- The Parliament House Construction Authority (**PHCA**) gave the then Joint House Department (**JHD**) a “REGISTER OF ALL FURNITURE INSTALLED IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE” sometime in 1989. That register recorded the value of six billiard tables referencing contract No. 73-5506-11 with an acquisition date of 26 April 1989. We believe this “acquisition date” to be the date of hand over
- DPS has since discovered that four of these tables were, most probably, tables from Old Parliament House (**OPH**) that were refurbished before being installed in the new Parliament House. There are no written records, and no information on the history of the tables was ever recorded on the JHD asset register.
- OPH has no records on the billiard tables that were refurbished and installed in Parliament House. Recently we received the following from OPH.

We have been advised that just prior to 9 May 1988, 2 circa 1930 tables from OPH were reconditioned by Heiron and Smith for relocation to APH at the same time as two new tables were purchased from the same company.

2 What has happened to those Billiard tables since 1989

- Of the four tables assumed to have come from OPH, two tables were transferred back to OPH by the then JHD in February 2000. The remaining two tables remain in Parliament House in the House of Representatives Alcove.
- The two tables that were purchased by the PHCA were declared excess and sold by DPS in July 2010.

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