



SUBMISSION 46

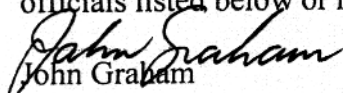
13 Wangara Street
Aranda ACT 2614
Phone and fax: 6251 4615
Email: jgraham@pcug.org.au

10 May 2003

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The attached submission to the inquiry into pay parking in the Parliamentary Zone has been compiled by members of voluntary groups working at the National Gallery, Old Parliament House, Qestacon and the National Library.

Any further information can be obtained by contacting the organisations through the officials listed below or myself as the coordinator of the submission


John Graham

MARCIA FLETCHER
PRESIDENT
VOLUNTEER GUIDES ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA
Phone: 6286 2964

SEAMUS FORDE
CHAIR
VOLUNTEERS COMMITTEE
OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE
Phone: 6236 8556

MARION WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT
QUESTACON VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION
Phone: 6231 2637

DR MARY DICKENSON
VOLUNTEER GUIDE
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA
Phone: 6247 2298

SUBMISSION BY VOLUNTEER WORKERS IN THE
PARLIAMENTARY ZONE TO THE INQUIRY BY THE JOINT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AND
EXTERNAL TERRITORIES INTO PAY PARKING IN THE
PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

The volunteers who work in the Parliamentary Zone wish to make a submission to the Inquiry on Pay Parking in the Parliamentary Zone. Its aim is to protect their present capacity for free parking in the zone while they are working there. It has been seen and endorsed by the membership of each Committee representing volunteers in the National Gallery, Old Parliament House, Questacon and the National Library.

Volunteers in these institutions presently number approximately 500, with most carrying out guiding activities for visitors. They also work in other areas where their professional experience is useful. This represents a significant percentage of the work force in the Zone. They are active in all the institutions listed and provide a principal point of contact and information for the visiting public.

Volunteers make a considerable contribution to the capacity and quality of the work force in each institution, and provide the principal support for their public programs. At the National Gallery 10-20 guides are required each day. At Old Parliament House the requirement is eight. At Questacon requirements differ, but attendance by volunteers averages 10 per day. At the National Library two volunteer guides are required each day for the Exhibition Gallery, and two for special projects.

Volunteer guides also contribute positively to the professional development of the institutions for which they work, taking part in regular sessions to keep up to date with relevant facts and trends. These sessions include:

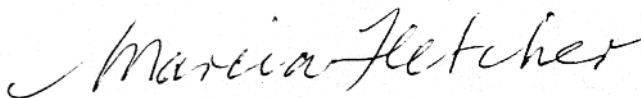
- At the National Gallery there are 134 volunteer guides spending five to six hours a month attending seminars and study groups associated with their guiding responsibilities.
- At Old Parliament House there are five professional development sessions a year for the 130 volunteer guides, each taking half a day.
- At Questacon there are 65 adult volunteers acting as explainers to visitors, and 45 school trainees. The adults undertake a minimum 16 hours of initial training, and also receive regular training for new programs. School-age guides take a series of 10 lectures for initial training. They also undertake 40 hours of on-the-spot training and one day of presentation training before they begin guiding.
- At the National Library there are 70 volunteers, 30 of whom work as exhibition guides and 40 on special projects. Those in the exhibition area attend six to eight full-day training sessions a year, participate in three-hour monthly meetings to discuss their work and make other visits to the library for research on exhibitions. The number of volunteer guides will soon be increased to provide tours showing visitors through the Library.

It can be seen that volunteers are an essential part of each institution, not only in their contact with the public but also in the information and experience they bring to their work through their professional background and their willingness to undertake regular training programs.

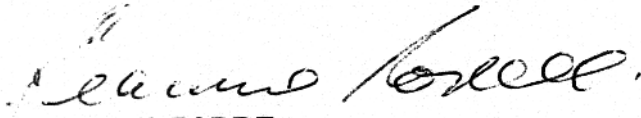
We believe that the present high use of the public assets represented by the exhibition areas in the Parliamentary Zone could be adversely affected if it was decided to apply pay parking to volunteers working in these institutions. Contact with our own members has made it clear that a significant number would consider whether they wished to continue working as volunteers if they were asked to make a regular parking payment out of their already limited income.

We also believe it would be unjust to apply paid parking to volunteers working in the Parliamentary Zone when volunteers working in the ACT are given free parking for their work.

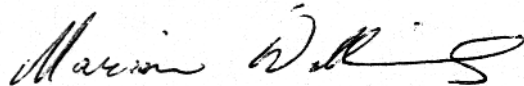
We are confident that this potentially serious problem for the public activities in the Parliamentary Zone could be overcome by providing a system that would enable volunteers to park in the Parliamentary Zone for free while on duty. The ACT Government provides a ticketing system which enables volunteers to park free in its paid parking areas, and we believe that such a system would work equally well in the Parliamentary Zone. The tickets could be used in the present parking spaces or in the areas of future parking development recommended in 2000 by the Parliamentary Zone Review.



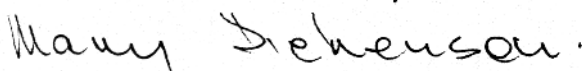
MARCIA FLETCHER
PRESIDENT
VOLUNTEER GUIDES ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA



SEAMUS FORDE
CHAIR
VOLUNTEERS COMMITTEE
OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE



MARION WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT
QUESTACON VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION



DR MARY DICKENSON
VOLUNTEER GUIDE
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA