

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2017**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Food Strategy report**

Question: **46**

Written **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

With reference to the evidence of the Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services, Mr Stefanic, at page 26 of the proof Hansard that:

‘That consultancy occurred before I came on board. Had I been here, I would have had certain viewpoints that I would have fed into that. One would have been that I did not think the consultants appropriately understood the parliamentary environment. Having come from running a catering operation at the New South Wales parliament, I was confident, given we have a market here which is effectively captive, that we could provide a service with more variety and with better value to the parliament.’

1. Notwithstanding these comments concerning the perceived quality of the report, has any action been taken with respect to recommendation seven in the executive summary of the Food Strategy report to “Improve contract and contract management resources and practices to enable DPS to more effectively manage performance of the contracts, to minimum standards”?
2. If so, what action has been taken?
3. If not, why not?

Answer

- 1– 3 DPS has focussed on improving contract management practices across the department as advised in the response to 2016–17 Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice No. 20 (copy attached).

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2016**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **ANAO Performance Audit Report – Managing Contracts at Parliament House**

Question: **20**

Written: **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

With reference to the Australian National Audit Office Performance Audit Report *Managing contracts at Parliament House* (No. 19 of 2016-17):

The Australian National Audit Office states that the Department of Parliamentary Services “should take a more strategic view of the role of contracting in the department, including whether services are best delivered in-house or through external contractors, and of the management arrangements and skills required to support future a service delivery needs.”

How is the Department of Parliamentary Services responding to this comment about developing a strategic view, and management arrangements and skills?

Answer

The Australian National Audit Office Performance Audit Report *Managing contracts at Parliament House* (No. 19 of 2016-17), states “DPS has developed policies, guidelines and training over the past 18 months to support staff managing contracts for the operation and maintenance of Parliament House. To build on these initiatives, DPS should take a more strategic view of the role of contracting in the department, including whether services are best delivered in-house or through external contractors, and of the management arrangements and skills required to support future service delivery needs.”

DPS recognises the need for continual improvement in the contract management space. To achieve this DPS will continue to embed the financial and procurement frameworks into business activities, evolve the SAP Procure to Pay system module and controls, provide formal and informal training opportunities and improved communications.

DPS provided a response to Recommendation No.1 in Section 2 of the report related to the statement above.