

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Strategic accommodation review – general**

Question: **82**

Written **Senator Wong**

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

1. With reference to the answer to 2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates question on notice 32, which senators and members were invited to attend consultation sessions?
2. Are they the same as those listed in answer to question on notice 33?
3. How were they selected?
4. Given the draft report was not finalised until after the July 2016 election, was there any thought given to consulting with senators and members in the 45th Parliament?
5. Can a copy of the first draft report be provided?
6. Why does the answer to part three of question on notice 34 state “consultation continues” on developing options when very little consultation with senators and members has occurred, particularly given the consultation session scheduled for 16 March 2016 did not go ahead?

Answer

1. The following senators and members were invited to attend:
 - Mr George Christensen MP
 - The Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP
 - Senator David Leyonhjelm
 - Mr Bob Katter MP
 - Senator Jacqui Lambie
 - Senator Nick Xenophon
 - Mr Andrew Wilkie MP
 - The Hon Warren Entsch MP
 - Ms Cathy McGowan AO, MP
 - The then Senator Bob Day
 - Ms Nola Marino MP
2. No, a number of those invited declined to participate.
3. The group provided a representative sample of government members and senators, opposition members and senators, and members of the cross benches.
4. No. The consultants have been refining the review following a detailed consultation period in the contract. Sufficient detail had been collected to enable strategic planning proposals.
5. As per the response to 2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice No. 34, the final report will be presented to the Presiding Officers for consideration. On that basis, it would not be constructive to publish information from the draft report in its current form.
6. The scheduled consultation for 16 March 2016 did not go ahead due to timing conflicts with Parliamentary Business. Consultation was ongoing with remaining stakeholders.