

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2015**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Limro Cleaning contract variation 2012**

Question: **30**

Hansard Reference **p 68-69; 25 May 2015**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2015**

**Senator WONG:** You were aware—or Mr Ryan or someone was aware—I assume, that the previous government implemented the Commonwealth's cleaning services guidelines. Correct?

**Mr Skill:** Yes, I was aware. Mr Ryan may or may not be. It predated his arrival in DPS.

**Senator WONG:** Was any action taken by DPS to ensure that this contract complied with those guidelines prior to their repeal?

**Mr Skill:** From memory. I do recall being brief on that, but I will confirm that for you. It was before my time.

**Senator WONG:** Is anybody here, or listening, who can talk to me about this?

**Mr Skill:** I do not think so, but we will check and come back to you.

**Senator WONG:** How much is this contract for?

**Mr Skill:** In the 2014-15 financial year, it is \$3.944 million.

**Senator WONG:** So it is a multimillion dollar contract and there is no one in the room who can tell me what conversations occurred last year or the year before?

**Mr Skill:** In relation to cleaning staff? We will have to check the records.

**Senator WONG:** No; it is whether or not this contract complied with those guidelines. Can no-one tell me that?

**Mr Skill:** I understand—and I am going to couch this in very vague terms—that a variation was agreed with Limro at the time to allow the cleaning staff guidelines to be made applicable.

**Senator WONG:** Do we have anybody here who can talk to us about that variation?

**Mr Skill:** No.

**Senator WONG:** Mr Ryan, you are not aware of it?

**Mr Ryan:** No. I joined the department at the end of January this year.

**Senator WONG:** Does no-one keep records or brief people about what has gone before?

**Mr Skill:** They do, but I would like to take that on notice to confirm it for you.

**Answer**

The Cleaning Services Guidelines, which took effect from 1 January 2012, were not applied retrospectively and Government agencies were not required to amend contracts with suppliers that were in place prior to 1 January 2012. The contract with Limro has been in place since 1 July 2003 so did not require amending to meet the Cleaning Services Guidelines.

Prior to this in 2010, Limro signed the Clean Start Union Collective Agreement 2009 effective from 1 January 2010. Please see response to Question on Notice No. 32, Limro Cleaning contract – tabling of variation, for further details.