

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18

Finance Portfolio
24-25 May 2017

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Provision of drinking water in Commonwealth parliamentary offices

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F152

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Part 1:

Can Ministerial and Parliamentary Services advise whether it supplies, or arranges the supply of, bottled drinking water to the Commonwealth parliamentary offices in each state and the Northern Territory and if so, which ones?

Where bottled water is supplied to senators and members who locate their electorate offices, or, for ministers and parliamentary office-holders, their offices, in the Commonwealth parliamentary offices, is the cost of supplying bottled drinking water borne by the individual senator, member or department, or by Ministerial and Parliamentary Services?

Part 2:

For the Commonwealth parliamentary offices in each state and the Northern Territory, can Ministerial and Parliamentary Services advise the total overall cost of the provision of bottled drinking water for both offices of senators and members as well as the Commonwealth parliamentary offices generally for (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 to date?

What is the budget for the provision of bottled drinking water in the Commonwealth parliamentary offices in each state and the Northern Territory for 2017-18?

Part 3:

Can Ministerial and Parliamentary Services advise whether filtered or purified water taps exist in any of the Commonwealth parliamentary offices in each state and the Northern Territory, and if so, which ones?

For the Commonwealth parliamentary offices in each state and the Northern Territory where filtered or purified water taps do not exist, has Ministerial and Parliamentary Services investigated the feasibility of installing filtered or purified water taps instead of supplying bottled drinking water?

If so, what were the conclusions?

If not, why has Ministerial and Parliamentary Services not sought to investigate the feasibility of installing filtered or purified water taps in Commonwealth parliamentary offices?

Part 4:

Is Ministerial and Parliamentary Services aware of the average cost of installing a filtered or purified water tap in commercial premises and if so, what is the cost?

Answer:

Part 1:

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services (M&PS) supplies bottled drinking water coolers in the following Commonwealth Parliament Offices (CPOs):

- Melbourne
- Brisbane
- Perth
- Adelaide
- Hobart
- Darwin

For Ministerial offices, the relevant portfolio agency would be responsible. Costs associated with CPO-based Senators and Members' bottled water coolers are attributable to relevant work expense budgets.

Part 2:

The total overall cost of the provision of bottled water for general use in CPOs is:

- (a) \$6,287.06 (GST exclusive) for 2015-16; and
- (b) \$6,586.71 (GST exclusive) for 2016-17.

These costs include unit hire, consumables, delivery costs and other associated charges.

There is not a specific budget amount for bottled drinking water. Costs form part of the overall running costs of each CPO.

Part 3:

Filtered or purified water taps were installed during fit out in the following CPOs:

- Sydney
- Melbourne
- Perth

The feasibility of installing purified water taps in CPOs where they are not installed has been considered. Reasons for not installing include expected usage, set up, maintenance and life cycle cost of the units, which can be expensive to install retrospectively.

Part 4:

The average cost of installing a filtered or purified water tap in an office of a size similar to a CPO is understood by M&PS to range between \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 (GST exclusive), depending on plumbing requirements and whether they are installed during fit out works or if retrofitting is required.