

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—November 2013**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Departments: Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Senator Brandis' Bookcase**

Question No: **128**

Written: **Senator Ludwig**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

I refer to an article published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 15 October, titled "Too big for his books: Brandis Library is shelved"

1. It has been reported that the bookshelf cost \$7000. What were the cost break downs?
 - a. Materials and construction
 - i. Who decided what materials would be used and how they would be acquired?
 - ii. What materials were used, including, but not limited to: types of wood used, types of varnish used; any fastening materials used (nails, screws, glue etc)?
 - iii. How much did these materials cost?
 - iv. Where were the materials purchased from?
 - v. How much did it cost to transport them to Canberra?
 - vi. How much did the ladder cost that is required to reach the upper shelving?
 - vii. How is the shelving attached to the wall?
 - viii. Was consideration given to costs that would be associated with restoring the office, once the Senator was required to move offices or left the Senate?
 - b. Labour
 - i. Who was commissioned to do the construction?
 - ii. What was the tender process?
 - iii. How much money was spent on Labour?
 - iv. How much was spent to transport contractors to and from the work site?
 - v. How many people worked on its construction?
 - vi. How many hours did it take them?
 - c. Consultation
 - i. Who were all of the people involved in the consultation process?
 - ii. What was the consultation process?
 - iii. How much was spent on consultation?
 - iv. How long did that process last?
 - d. Administration
 - i. Who were all of the people involved in organising the shelving and who did they work for (and hence who was paying their wages)?
 - ii. How much was spent on consultation?
 - iii. How many hours did they spend organising the shelving?
 - e. Maintenance
 - i. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the shelving?
 - ii. How much maintenance does the shelving require?
 - iii. How much does this maintenance cost?
 - iv. How long is the shelving expected to last?

2. What alternative storage solutions were considered?
 - a. How much did any alternative storage solutions cost?
 - b. What is the justification of the chosen option vs alternative, cheaper options?
 - c. Who was involved in making this final decision?
3. How was a decision made that a bookshelf would be necessary?
 - a. Who was involved in making this decision?
 - b. Was Senator Brandis involved in the decision?
 - c. What factors did they consider when making the decision?
 - d. Who formally requested the shelving be constructed?
4. What was the process used to have the funds approved?
 - a. How was it determined that this was the appropriate process?
 - b. Who approved the construction of the shelving?
 - c. Has this process been used to construct any fixtures in any other offices?
 - d. Provide a list of these fixtures.
5. How was the shelving funded?
 - a. Were alternative sources of funding the shelving considered?
 - b. If so, what were the sources considered?
 - c. Did Senator Brandis consider personally funding the cost of this shelving?

Answer

This matter is the responsibility of the Department of the Senate.