

Question: 4
Topic: Cost recovery
Asked: 19 October 2015

Senator WONG: I think you mentioned cost recovery. Is there any cost recovery operating in the Department of the Senate?

...

Senator WONG: ... On notice, can you provide for me that activities which are undertaken on a cost recovery basis.

Dr Laing: certainly.

Senator WONG: Also, what the practice is intended to be.

Answer

The department recovers certain costs relating to:

- the provision of some corporate services to the Parliamentary Budget Office
- legislation subscription services
- various publications, for example, *Odgers' Australian Senate Practice*, *Australia's Magna Carta*, and *There being no objection, An Australian Senate Miscellany*.
- some training and seminars run by the department
- some resources of the Parliamentary Education Office (and a proportion of costs under a memorandum of understanding with the Department of the House of Representatives)
- printing jobs delivered to external clients by the department's print room, for example, the Parliamentary Library's Annual Report, and
- gift shop sales and gift items sold through Senators' Services.

In addition, the department is charged by other parliamentary departments on a recovery of costs basis for certain services relating to information communications technology services, such as project manager costs for particular joint or specific projects. Proportional recovery of costs also occurs where the department obtains services on behalf of the other parliamentary departments for common purposes. Examples include advertising, publicity and other costs for Open Day 2015, and legal advice on award modernisation.

Recovery of costs occurs in accordance with the relevant regulatory framework, and is balanced by our obligations to provide education and awareness of the role of the Senate and its committees.