

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Access to cabinet ante room**

Question: **25**

Hansard Reference **p 34, 35; 19 October 2015**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Senator WONG: It would be useful to be able to ask questions of her or at least have her in the room so she can advise you. I am trying to understand how Mr Frost came to deny you access. Was she told that in the first call? Was there a second call? Who made the decision that you could not get into the cabinet anteroom?

Mr Ryan: I will follow that up and get back to you.

...

Senator WONG: Did you ever follow it up with Mr Frost?

Mr Ryan: Yes, there was further correspondence, which is in one of those emails.

Senator WONG: As to why—

Mr Ryan: Sorry, I did not ask why. I will make that clear. I did not ask why. I just said, 'We need to get in to do an examination.'

Senator WONG: And how many times did you communicate with them?

Mr Ryan: I would have to check. I think I only communicated the once.

Senator WONG: You only communicated with him once. What about other staff?

Mr Ryan: Other staff did try early on but then did not take it any further.

Answer

DPS liaised with Ministerial Wing Support to arrange a suitable time to access the Ante Room. There were a number of phone calls but specific times and dates were not recorded.

At 9:30am on Friday 18 September 2015, Ministerial Wing Support notified DPS that the damaged metal framed coffee table could be removed that day.