

**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: **27**

Hansard Reference **p 39; 19 October 2015**

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

Senator WONG: Can I go back to the Friday, when you were final granted access—I think from the emails—only for half an hour?

Mr Ryan: Yes.

Senator WONG: Were you supervised over that period? Were your staff supervised for the half-hour access?

Mr Ryan: For the half hour, I would have to check. On the Friday, the staff member went in and replaced the table. The half-hour access was actually on the following Monday.

Answer

On this occasion DPS was given access, via a telephone call, by Ministerial Wing Support. When DPS officers arrived to remove the marble table, the officers requested permission for access to the Cabinet suite from the AFP and located the table base and top in the Cabinet Secretariat office without supervision.

DPS staff are escorted by the AFP when accessing the Prime Minister's Office or the Cabinet Room.