

**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: **Cleaning Contract**

Question: **43**

Written **Senator Wong**

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

1. Can the Department please advise the status of the current negotiations between the cleaners and Limro?
2. On how many occasions has industrial action affecting users of Parliament House occurred and what forms has the industrial action taken?
3. When did the existing enterprise bargaining agreement expire?
4. What mechanisms exist for the Department or the Parliament to ensure cleaners receive their first pay increase since 2012?

Answer

1. Limro staff and their union, United Voice, have been negotiating a new enterprise agreement with Limro Pty Ltd since December 2014. Limro has advised that the negotiations are currently ongoing.
2. On 15 June 2015, a 24 hour strike by United Voice employees of Limro was held. Further industrial action was taken by United Voice employees of Limro from 17 to 22 August 2015. This action saw members of the union refusing to clean toilet and bathroom facilities throughout the building. Further industrial action was taken from 29 November to 4 December 2015. This action led to a reduction in normal cleaning, with desk and office bins not being emptied.
3. The Clean Start Union Collective Agreement 2009 expired on 30 June 2013.
4. The contract with Limro does not specify rates of pay for cleaners. DPS has a contract with Limro for the provision of cleaning services within Parliament House. Under the terms of the contract, wages and conditions paid to employees are mentioned in Schedule 5, which states
“The Contractor must ensure that every person, including subcontractors, employed in connection with the Cleaning Service is:
 - a. paid wages at rates; and
 - b. employed under conditions of employment, not less favourable than those established by the relevant award.”