

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: **Car Parking**
Question: **47**
Written **Senator Wong**

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

Referring to BE QoN 15, which provides a breakdown of Categories of passes with access to the private car parks and razor blade car parks (except the Ministerial Underground car park), in relation to some of the other figures:

1. How many political parties are represented amongst the 79 pass holders from political party secretariats?
2. Please outline the various types of individual granted temporary access.
3. How does the figure of 457 Media passes compare with the recognised number of members of the Press Gallery?
4. What is the process for granting a Media pass? Are applications endorsed by the Press Gallery committee?
5. For the category “Commonwealth Officer (Non-photographic) [Comcar only], does this mean a pass held by a Comcar driver for the purpose of accessing the slip roads, or can drivers park a personal car in the car parks?
6. Please describe the difference between “resident” and “non-resident” contractors.
7. What is the breakdown of “Parliamentary Departments” between the different departments?
8. Why are members of the Diplomatic Corps granted car park access, particularly when the pie charts supplied with the answer appear to indicate that no members of this category accessed the car park?
9. Do the cleaners have access to the car parks to park their cars?
10. Please provide a breakdown of the data contained in the pie charts in tabulated form.
11. Can you please provide the same breakdown for the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Razor Blade car parks separately?

Answer

1. There are 5 political parties represented.
2. Temporary Access refers to passes which were issued to short term staff or contractors who were assigned to Parliament House for a period of less than 12 months. In all cases, the pass holder satisfied the same requirements as a photographic pass holder, but due to the length of their tenure, they were provided with a non-photographic pass which could be reused for the next applicant. These passes are now being removed as the issuing of non-photographic passes has ceased.
3. This is a matter for the Parliamentary Press Gallery Committee. The Department facilitates access and issuing of media passes based on endorsement from this group.
4. Media passes are issued to individuals by the Parliament House Pass Office who have been approved by one member of the Press Gallery Committee as suitable to be granted substantial access to Parliament House.

Members of the Press Gallery Committee who have authority to approve new pass application and/or pass renewals for Media employees are:

- a. President (Mr David Speers);
- b. Vice President (Mr Andrew Meares); and

c. Secretary, of the Press Gallery (Ms Eliza Borrello).

Media Passes have the following privileges:

- a. Sign in visitors;
 - b. Escort visitors;
 - c. Access to all car parks except Ministerial Wing;
 - d. Access to one or more slip roads on approval by SAA or UBR or their nominated representative; and
 - e. Access to the Health and Recreation Centre and Parliamentary Library.
5. The pass issued to Comcar drivers only enables them to access the slip roads, Senator and Member Private car parks and Ministerial Underground car park for the purposes of their work i.e. to pick up and drop off Parliamentarians etc. These passes are currently being updated to Photographic passes in line with the recent decision by Presiding Officers to remove non-photographic passes to the building.
6. A resident contractor is one who has a designated working space (office or workstation) in the building, a non-resident contractor does not.
7. See response to question 11 below.
8. Diplomatic Corps are granted access to all APH car-parks barring Ministerial basement. The low level of usage has resulted in instances of access not being represented on a high-level chart (see questions 10 and 11 below).
9. Yes. The cleaners have access to the Ministerial Razor-Blades, the Public car-park and the Senate & House of Reps staff car-parks.
10. See response to question 11 below.
11. Information listed below as at 30 October 2015, noting that recent changes in policy for non-photographic passes will increase the Commonwealth Officer category during November. Given pass holder commencement and cessations, there will be differences in the figures below to previous questions on notice..

Categories and numbers of passes with access to House of Representatives and Senate staff car parks (516 spaces in House of Representatives, 682 spaces in Senate

Category	Number of passes
Commonwealth Officer (Photo)	17
Contractor (Resident)	625
Contractor (Non-Resident)	131
Diplomatic Corps	159
Member of other Australian Legislature	0
Media	476
Member	113
Ministerial Wing	1081

Category	Number of passes
Nominated Family Member	261
Office of Member	741
Office of Senator	381
Department of Parliamentary Services	863
House of Representatives	191
Department of Senate	182
Parliamentary Budget Office	46
Political Party Secretariats	73
Senator	52
Sponsored	1
Temporary access	31*
Volunteer (Senator or Member Office)	46
Total	5472

*Please note these passes are currently being replaced with applicable photographic passes

Categories of passes with access to Members' car park (18 spaces)

Category	Number of passes
Member	113
Commonwealth Officer - Comcar	78
Ministerial Wing	13
Nominated Family Member	11
Office of Member	50*
Department of Parliamentary Services	0
House of Representatives	7
Department of Senate	0
Parliamentary Budget Office	0
Total	272

*Not for individual parking – only to assist Member

Categories of passes with access to Senators' car park (34 spaces)

Category	Number of passes
Senator	52
Commonwealth Officer - Comcar	78
Ministerial Wing	1
Nominated Family Member	11
Office of Senator	33*
Department of Parliamentary Services	1
House of Representatives	0
Department of Senate	2
Parliamentary Budget Office	1
Total	179

*Not for individual parking – only to assist Senator

Categories of passes with access to the Ministerial Razor Blades (212 spaces)

Category	Number of passes
Commonwealth Officer (Photo)	1816
Sponsored	1626
Ministerial Wing	1081
Department of Parliamentary Services	863
House of Representatives	191
Department of Senate	182
Parliamentary Budget Office	46
Office of Member	741
Office of Senator	381
Total	6927