

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2016**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **ANAO Performance Audit Report – Managing Contracts at Parliament House**

Question: **20**

Written: **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

With reference to the Australian National Audit Office Performance Audit Report *Managing contracts at Parliament House* (No. 19 of 2016-17):

The Australian National Audit Office states that the Department of Parliamentary Services “should take a more strategic view of the role of contracting in the department, including whether services are best delivered in-house or through external contractors, and of the management arrangements and skills required to support future a service delivery needs.”

How is the Department of Parliamentary Services responding to this comment about developing a strategic view, and management arrangements and skills?

Answer

The Australian National Audit Office Performance Audit Report *Managing contracts at Parliament House* (No. 19 of 2016-17), states “DPS has developed policies, guidelines and training over the past 18 months to support staff managing contracts for the operation and maintenance of Parliament House. To build on these initiatives, DPS should take a more strategic view of the role of contracting in the department, including whether services are best delivered in-house or through external contractors, and of the management arrangements and skills required to support future service delivery needs.”

DPS recognises the need for continual improvement in the contract management space. To achieve this DPS will continue to embed the financial and procurement frameworks into business activities, evolve the SAP Procure to Pay system module and controls, provide formal and informal training opportunities and improved communications.

DPS provided a response to Recommendation No.1 in Section 2 of the report related to the statement above.