

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: **Operation Tetris and staff movements within Parliament House**

Question: **36**

Written: **Senator Wong**

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

With reference to evidence from Mr Stefanic at the 2016-17 Budget Estimates that approximately 85 staff from the ICT projects unit and from the finance and procurement branch were to be moved:

1. Has this move occurred?
 - a. If so, to where have these staff been moved?
 - b. If not, why?
2. What is the nature of the projects that required their relocation?
3. What is the cost of the relocation, both the initial move and the ongoing costs?
4. How did the ongoing costs compare to the other sites identified in the Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House), West Block and Treasury?

Answer

1. Yes. The staff have been moved to the Minter Ellison Building.
2. The relocation of staff was to create office space to support the Security Upgrade Implementation Plan and to enable DPS staff to be moved out of the basement.
3. The initial relocation cost was \$44,364 (incl GST). The ongoing cost to lease 1588m² for three years is \$1.480m (ex GST).
4. Ongoing cost for the Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House), West Block and Treasury were:

| | Available space m ² | Staff capacity | Cost/m ² | Lease cost over three years | Fitout estimate |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Old Parliament House | 901 | 55 | \$325 | \$0.878m | \$1.0m + |
| Treasury Building | 650 | 46 | \$420 | \$0.819 | \$1.0m + |
| West Block Opt 1 | 5552 | 50+ | Not provided by Department of Finance | Unknown | |
| West Block Opt 2 | 1982 | 50+ | Not provided by Department of Finance | Unknown | |

The Minter Ellison Building lease included a full fitout of modern office furnishings which other options did not. West Block was also not deemed suitable for office accommodation due to its current condition. Old Parliament House was unable to provide the space required with fitout within the time requirements.