

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No.EW0625_11

Senator Mason asked on 21/10/2010, Hansard page 11.

Question

SPEECH WRITING COSTS

Senator MASON—What did he [Dr Glover] charge per hour? Ms Willoughby—I do not have that information at the moment. Senator MASON—Can you find that out and tell me what it is? Ms Willoughby—I can take that on notice. Mr McDonald—Just to add some context to that, we do have an internal speechwriting team. We might have discussed this in the past. On occasions we will use the panel arrangements. In this case, since the panel has been in place Dr Glover has written 20-odd speeches out of about 530 that we have done. Ms Paul—I think we have put on the record before the cost of some speeches. We will certainly take on notice hourly costs.

Answer

Under the current panel arrangement, which was established in April 2009 following an open tender process, Dr Glover has written 28 speeches at an average cost of \$1,304.29 per speech.

Providing the hourly rate for panel members would potentially impact on the Commonwealth's ability to obtain the best value for money in future tender processes for speechwriting services.