

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliament Portfolio

Department of Parliamentary Services

Additional Budget Estimates 2003-04, February 2004

Question: P2

Topic: Events not approved

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Senator Faulkner asked: Has there been a record of other groups being censored, be they political or artistic in nature?

Answer: The Department of Parliamentary Services has found no record of any incident in which a person or organisation has been allowed to hold an event in Parliament House on the basis that they excise specific parts of that event.

The table following lists events which have not been approved, and the reasons approval was not granted. This table has been kept in the Joint House Department since 1994, and it provides a more or less contemporary record of the reasons for the decisions. DPS has not investigated the original files. Where a record is marked 'File not available', the file has been destroyed or sent to the National Archives of Australia for storage. The Department of Parliamentary Services has no records relating to these matters prior to 1994.

Events Not Approved

| When | Function / Use | Where/What | Client | Rejection Comments |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Mar-94 | Display and Sale of wool products | Display area, Senate Side | National Wool Week (sponsor, Wilson Tuckey MP) | Display approved. Sale not approved due to commercial implications. (File not available) |
| Mar-94 | Filming | Exterior PH | Insurance Council of Australia | Not approved due to commercial implications. (File not available) |
| Jul-94 | Filming | Chambers | AGL | Not approved due to commercial implications. (File not available) |
| Sep-94 | Display of framed photo of sculpture "The Shadow of the Unknown Soldier" | PH | Rocco Oppedisano (Sponsor, Harry Jenkins MP) | Requests by living artists to exhibit works of art will not be approved, to do so would give impression that Parliament endorses the work of a particular artist. (File not available) |
| Sep-94 | Performances by Victoria de Los Angeles & Geoffrey Parsons. | Great Hall | Andrew McKinnon, entertainment promoter | If approved, such a precedent could lead to an increased number of similar unsolicited requests from other performers. Community based events are encouraged with minimal costs to Parliament. (File not available) |
| Oct 94 and Jan 95 | Film a Painting of a BMW by Michael Tjakamarra | Alongside his forecourt mosaic | Badjar | Cannot use building for advertising purposes where it may be inferred that the Parliament in some way endorses the product. (File not available) |
| Feb-95 | Photographic Exhibition of ATSI stockworkers | PO's Exhibition Area | Sponsor Peter Dodd MP | Requests by living artists to exhibit works of art will not be approved, to do so would give impression that Parliament endorses the work of a particular artist. (File not available) |
| Mar-95 | Photograph Vehicles | "Around PH" | FE-FC Holden Car Club of NSW | Not approved on Forecourt. Approval for Demonstration Area. (File not available) |
| Jun-95 | Colour photo of PH on a CD cover | PH at sunset | MS Jackie Rose | Not approved as this is not a promotional opportunity for Parliament House. Parliament House not permitted to support commercial enterprises. (File not available) |

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|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Sep-95 | Display of sculpture by Adam Kucera | Display Areas | Mr Jeff Austin | Requests by living artists to exhibit works of art will not be approved, to do so would give impression that Parliament endorses the work of a particular artist. (File not available) |
| Sep-95 | Filming of 2 motor homes | Lawns of Demonstration Area | Mr McMillan, ACT Motor Home & Van Hire | Cannot use building for advertising purposes where it may be inferred that the Parliament in some way endorses the product. (File not available) |
| Nov-95 | Filming "Billy Connolly's Tour of Australia" Video | Various areas in and around PH | Harriet Scott, Location Manager from Shooting Star | Most areas approved - however, not approved in Senate Chamber, Sitting Day. (File not available) |
| Nov-95 | Display of ocean scene project | Display Area | Tarro Primary School - Sponsor Eric Fitzgibbon MP | Material for display should have direct/substantial link to PH as an institution, to its art collection, or to events of national significance which are assessed as having widespread community support. (File not available) |
| Feb-96 | Photograph of Stud Ram | Forecourt | Koonwarra Shearing Competition Calendar | Not appropriate due to commercial implications. (No file available) |
| March 96 (Approx) | Interviews | Public & Non Public Areas PH | "Sex Life" TV program | Request to interview both Members and public on their sex lives not considered appropriate. (File not available) |
| March 96 (Approx) | Filming of Miss Australia entrants in lingerie | Marble Stairs (& possibly chambers) | Miss Australia Awards | Request to photograph entrants in lingerie not approved by Serjeant At Arms & Usher of the Black Rod as not consistent with the dignity of Parliament House. (File not available) |
| March 96 (Approx) | Function | Great Hall | "Moonies" | Original application did not link the function to the Moonies. Once it became known, it was not approved. (File not available) |
| March 96 (Approx) | Convention & Direct Selling | Great Hall | Harvey World Travel | Direct selling as part of the function considered too commercial for the dignity of Parliament. (File not available) |

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| Jun-96 | Ballroom Dancing | Great Hall | National Capital Ballroom Dancing Championships | Damage caused to floor at previous events of this nature |
| Nov-96 | Rock & roll Function | Great Hall | Rock & Roll Club | Damage caused to floor at previous events of this nature |
| Jan-97 | Hire Theatre & Foyer (free of charge) for four week period to stage 'The Magic Pudding' | Theatre & Theatre Foyer | National Theatre Company | Theatre not equipped for use as proposed, no suitable changing rooms. Service required from SAVO would adversely affect service to other parts of Parliament. Season too long. (File not available) |
| Jan-97 | Ride on Alimak (flag mast cage lift) as prize in charity auction | Alimak Flagpole Lift | Tourism Council of Australia | Safety implications, Alimak lift designed for use by maintenance personnel only. (File not available) |
| Feb-97 | Skydiver Trailing 500sq.ft. Flag | Above & On PH Lawns | Pizza Hut Australia | Commercial Implications. Flag bearing words "Get Stuffed Crusts" could be construed by many as inconsistent with dignity of Parliament. (File not available) |
| Apr-97 | Photographic Exhibition of Hong Kong | PO's Exhibition Area | Chinese Embassy (Hon Bruce Reid MP) | Did not meet criteria that displays must pertain to business of Parliament or have some major national significance. (File not available) |
| Oct-97 | Performances as part of Go Bus | PH Lawns and Public Carpark | Canberra Youth Theatre | Performances planned were considered contrary to guidelines for conduct in external areas. Safety in carpark etc. CYT did not want to use Demonstration Area. (File not available) |
| May-98 | Dinner/Ball | Great Hall | I'm Gayme Organisation | Proposed function was not supported by the Secretary (JHD). The PO's were not inclined to approve it based on information viewed on a poster describing the event as "steamy and erotic". |
| Mar-99 | Proposed Volleyball Match | Great Hall | Minister of Sport | Great Hall floor not designed nor maintained as a conventional sports playing surface. |
| Sep-99 | Evening Reception | Member's Hall | Minister for Aged Care | Not deemed to be a Parliamentary Function. |

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| Jun-00 | Information & viewing night (X, NVE and R rated material) | Theatre | EROS Foundation (Adult goods and services industry) | Not judged to be acceptable to the majority of Senators and Members. |
| Apr-02 | State functions | Members' Guest Dining Room and Members' Club | CERHOS | These dedicated venues are for use by Members, Senators and senior officers during sitting periods and are used regularly by these and other Parliamentary staff during non-sitting periods. Access to these venues cannot be limited. |
| May-02 | Jewish Festival of Chanukah | Parliamentary Precincts | Yeshiva Centre | Erection of a Menorah was rejected by the NCA due to problems the previous year. |
| Jun-02 | Red Nose Day | Front of PH | SIDS and Kids ACT inc | Request to place a red nose on the front of Parliament House not approved as a Parliamentary committee decided to only permit the presentation of the Coat-of-Arms with the Australian National Flag flying above at the entrance to the building. |
| Jun-03 | Launch of "Help Rescue our Family Members" (Falun Dafa) | Courtyard 27C | Falun Dafa | Event considered to be inappropriate use of facilities and does not fall within the current guidelines for the use of Parliamentary Facilities. Advice sought from Foreign Affairs and Trade. |
| Jun-03 | Celebration of National Falun Dafa Day | Great Hall | Falun Dafa | Event considered to be inappropriate use of facilities and does not fall within the current guidelines for the use of Parliamentary Facilities. Advice sought from Foreign Affairs and Trade. |