

Estimates 2004-05 — Additional Estimates, February 2005

Questions on Notice Index—Parliamentary Departments

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P1	Senate	Faulkner	F&PA 4, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—How much recycled paper from overseas is being used? Ms Griffiths—I would have to check. I will take that on notice, as I am not sure.	Answer received 14/3/05
P2	Senate	Faulkner	F&PA 4-5, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—So, are you perfectly satisfied with the way these procurement guidelines are being applied? The PRESIDENT—I am not aware of any changes but I do know that when I was the whip and involved in the House Standing Committee that quite significant changes were made in the parliamentary dining room when changes were made to cutlery, crockery and the like, and that was one of the savings that ensured that the dining room was able to run more efficiently, for the benefit of members and senators. Senator FAULKNER—Could you check for us in regard to the recycled paper. The PRESIDENT—I will have a look at the procurement guidelines.	Answer received 14/3/05
P3	Senate	Faulkner	F&PA 5, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—I see. Do you break that down into usage by individual senators? Obviously, you can but— Mr Evans—We can but I do not have those figures in front of me at the moment. Senator FAULKNER—Perhaps you could provide those on notice to us.	Answer received 14/3/05
P4	Senate	Faulkner	F&PA 7, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—What are the savings? [restructuring / work values] Ms Griffiths—I have not quantified that; I can get that for you. ... Senator FAULKNER—Have we been able to quantify the savings? Ms Griffiths—I have not got that figure here; I will get that for you.	Answer received 14/3/05

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P5	Senate	Brandis	F&PA 8,14/2/05	<p>Senator BRANDIS—Can you indicate to us how much those outlays were and on how many occasions external legal advice was sought? Mr Evans—We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—When you address that on notice would you also indicate in a very brief way the issues to which the advice was directed and the external counsel firm from which the advice was sought, please. Mr Evans—Yes, we will do that. You will find that the Australian Government Solicitor is the main source of advice for the department, as against advice for the Senate or senators. I do not think there was any external legal advice sought for the Senate or senators. But we will check that.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—Thank you.</p>	Answer received 14/3/05
P6	DPS	Knowles	F&PA 24, 14/2/05	<p>Senator KNOWLES—Can someone come back to me on the nurses station? Ms Penfold—Yes.</p>	Answer received 1/4/05
P7	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 30, 14/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—So recommendation 5.2 of Mr Podger is not going to be adhered to and I would say ignored. Recommendation 5.3 goes to strengthening the terms of reference to the Joint Library Committee. Some work has been done in the Speaker's office that you do not know anything about. Can we have a copy, please, of these proposed strengthened terms of reference for the Library Committee? The PRESIDENT—I have not seen them. If they do exist I will have a look at them and if you wish them to be provided I will do that.</p>	Answer received 1/4/05
P8	Senate	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 14/3/05
P9	DPS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/4/05
P10	Senate	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 14/3/05
P11	DPS	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/4/05
P12	DPS	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/4/05

Please note that answers are due on 1 April 2005

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

P8 and P9

Senator Kim Carr

Please provide a table listing details of all consultancies for the 2003/04 financial year, for the department and all associated agencies within the portfolio. Please include the following:

- The costs for all completed consultancies, both budgeted and actual;
 - The costs for ongoing consultancies, both budgeted and for the current financial year;
 - The total costs for all consultancies, both the amount expended in the current financial year, and the total budgeted value of all consultancies running in the current financial year;
 - The nature and purpose of the consultancy;
 - The method by which the contract was let;
 - The name and details of the company and/or individual who is carrying out, or carried out, the contract.
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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES FEB 2005
FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Department of the Senate

1. Has the Department considered, or is the Department currently considering, any proposals or suggestions for further cost-cutting measures in order to meet the under-achievement of the Podger Report's expected savings?
2. If so, what are these proposals or suggestions?
3. What is the source of those proposals or suggestions, either from within the Department or externally?
4. Where possible to quantify, how much would the expected cost savings be for each of these proposals/suggestions?
5. What would be the effect of each of those proposals on services to MPs or Senators?

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES FEB 2005
FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Department of Parliamentary Services

1. Has the Department considered, or is the Department currently considering, any proposals or suggestions for further cost-cutting measures in order to meet the under-achievement of the Podger Report's expected savings?
 2. If so, what are these proposals or suggestions?
 3. What is the source of those proposals or suggestions, either from within the Department or externally?
 4. Where possible to quantify, how much would the expected cost savings be for each of these proposals/suggestions?
 5. What would be the effect of each of those proposals on services to MPs or Senators?
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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES FEB 2005
FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Department of Parliamentary Services

1. On what date was the position of Parliamentary Librarian last filled on a substantive, full-time basis?
2. How many positions does the Parliamentary Library have at the Director, or EL2, level?
3. How many subject groups currently constitute the Information and Research Service?
4. Why are there currently more Directors than there are Subject Groups?
5. What measures are currently in place within the Library to cut costs, and how do these measures impact on services to clients?