

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Human Services Portfolio**

Additional Estimates 2006-2007, 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2007

**Question: HS24**

**Department: Department of Human Services**

**Outcome 1, Output 1**

**Topic: Job Capacity Assessment - Accessibility**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Hansard Page F&PA 41 and 42**

**SENATOR WONG** asked on 16/02/2007:

**Senator WONG**—You will provide me with the checklist. Has that altered at all?

**Ms Frame**—No, it has not.

**Senator WONG**—When was that finalised?

**Ms Frame**—I think it was November, but I will check that.

**Senator WONG**—Just to make sure that you are clear about what I am seeking, I would like to know whether the department identifies a threshold to determine the acceptability of accessibility in terms of how many checklist items had to be reached for a positive finding.

**ANSWER:**

The Accessibility checklist was finalised on 30 October 2006 after extensive consultation with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) and National Welfare Rights Network.

There is no widely recognised or agreed legal definition of what characterises a building as ‘accessible’. In order to provide an objective guide to Job Capacity Assessors, DHS contracted an accessibility consultant to develop a checklist and fact sheet which is aligned with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and the Disability Discrimination Act (1992).

Following advice from HREOC, the department has reviewed the accessibility of sites across six areas:

1. Accessible paths of travel to the main door
2. Car parks
3. Accessible paths inside the building to all services and facilities
4. Doorways
5. Toilets
6. Goods, services and facilities

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes at an estimated cost of \$125.