

SENATE FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2006-07 – HEARING 12 FEBRUARY 2007

DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

P5: HANSARD, P.13 - SENATOR FORSHAW

Description of the process by which advertising of a committee inquiry is determined

Answer: The Senate routinely advertises its committee inquiries every second Wednesday on page two of *The Australian*. Commencing at the beginning of the parliamentary sittings for the year, it shares this advertising space with the House of Representatives who advertise on the alternate Wednesday.

This arrangement commenced in 2002. It was introduced as a means to cap the escalating costs associated with committee advertising. It does not prevent a committee from deciding to advertise in other print media. The cost of such advertising is borne directly by the committee agreeing to the alternative advertising and organised by the secretariat. The cost of *The Australian* ad is borne by all committees and organised through the Senior Clerk's Office.

If the Senate agrees to the recommendations of a Selection of Bills Committee report to refer a number of bills to committees with short reporting times, an extra ad may be placed in *The Australian* on the Monday or Tuesday of the following week. The process is essentially the same, but the times for some steps are reduced.