

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation  
Committee—Additional Budget Estimates February 2007**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary  
Services**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Topic: Recruitment agency spending**

**Question P17**

Senator Wong asked:

- 1 What sum was spent on recruitment agencies in 2006 by each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- 2 Will the Minister provide a list of the recruitment agencies which are used by the department and agencies in the Minister's portfolio?
- 3 What functions do recruitment agencies perform for departments and what would be the likely impact on departmental outcomes from a reduction in recruitment spending on external agencies?
- 4 What benefit-cost assessments have been done which benchmark internal recruitment processes and/ or on utilising online recruitment portals?

**Answer**

- 1 During the calendar year 2006 the Department of Parliamentary Services spent a total of \$1,356.43 on recruitment agencies. The Department has on occasion used labour hire agencies to provide short-term contractors.
- 2 The recruitment agencies used during the period were as follows:
  - (a) Professional Careers Australia (\$576.43); and
  - (b) SOS Recruitment (\$780).
- 3 During 2006 the recruitment agencies mentioned in answer to Question 2 sourced three people to be engaged as non-ongoing employees when temporary staff with particular skills were needed quickly.
- 4 If departmental spending on recruitment agencies were reduced, then finding non-ongoing staff in a hurry would be more difficult and this might affect aspects of the department's operations.
- 5 No formal benefit-cost assessment has been undertaken to compare internal recruitment processes and online recruitment portals.