

Estimates 2006-07 — Additional Budget Estimates, February 2007

Questions on Notice Index—Parliamentary Departments

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P1	Senate	Ray	F&PA9	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Can we calculate today in constant dollars what was put in the base payment from Department of Finance and Administration to the Department of the Senate for select committees? It was based on having four active select committees. I just remind the committee that when Howard was Leader of the Opposition we had nine select committees going in the Senate at the one time.</p> <p>Mr Evans—We can do a calculation of that and give you a figure.</p>	Answer received 21/02/07
P2	Senate	Faulkner	F&PA10	<p>Senator FAULKNER—It is now becoming the practice for most bills to be referred to committees, isn't it? Do you have any statistics on the proportion of bills?</p> <p>Mr Evans—Not before me, no. It is a statistic that we keep, which we can get for you. I do not have anything before me at the moment.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—It is true to say, isn't it, that the proportion or percentage of bills being referred to committee is also increasing—and I would have thought quite dramatically?</p> <p>Mr Evans—That the proportion is going up would probably be the case as the numbers have gone up, but I do not have a figure for that. We will get you a figure on that.</p>	Answer received 21/02/07

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P3	Senate	Murray	F&PA10	<p>Senator MURRAY—Could I—through the chair—add to the research being done by the Clerk’s office on these figures. I am looking for figures that refer to whether there is now a difference in time between when the reports come down and when the bills are considered in the Senate. My impression is that that time has lengthened. In the past, the report used to take longer but the bill would be dealt with sooner. I do not know whether those figures are easy to discover or whether you would have to do a sample. Behind my question is a belief that it is unnecessary to have these short turnaround times for committee inquiries because the bill will not be considered soon after the report comes down.</p> <p>Mr Evans—We will get some comparative figures on that.</p>	Answer received 01/03/07
P4	Senate	Murray	F&PA12	<p>Senator MURRAY—Could you take on notice an indication of what an ideal inquiry time and process should be where it might all be considered reasonably urgent and therefore worthy of some speed—time for advertising, for submissions, for hearings, for the chair’s report and so on? I have the impression that those who are managing government business seem to have lost sight of the mechanics.</p> <p>Mr Evans—We can endeavour to set down what we think is a minimum reasonable time for that process to take place.</p>	Answer received 21/02/07
P5	Senate	Forshaw	F&PA12-13	<p>Senator FORSHAW—I am asking about internal arrangements within operations of committees. I understand that they have to work within a budget, but when an inquiry comes before the committee and the committee need to advertise it, what are they entitled to do by way of advertising? Can they advertise in any number of newspapers, or is it a selection?</p> <p>Mr Evans—Perhaps I could get a description of the process by which it is determined and what advertising will take place. Obviously it starts with the committee determining the degree of advertising that is appropriate but it works its way through a departmental process. Perhaps I could get you a description of that process.</p>	Answer received 21/02/07

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P6	Senate	Ray	F&PA15-16	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—How many times in the last three years, including what you intend to do this year, have you been attached to one of these delegations?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—I would have to check on that.</p>	Answer received 12/02/07 and supplement 15/02/07
P7	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA23	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Given the reductions from 1,339 kilolitres to 870 kilolitres, can you say to the committee how many kilolitres are used watering the grass on the Parliament House roof inside Parliament Drive?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I do not have that at my fingertips, although I know that there are people out there who do have those figures and I can get—</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—If the person out there knows, let them tell us.</p>	Answer received 29/03/07
P8	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA28	<p>Mr Bray—Testing is part of what we call commissioning. The term is ‘testing and commissioning’. It is one and the other. In commissioning, you set the equipment into full operational mode and, by doing that, you are testing the system to make sure it is operating as it is designed to operate.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—What was the handover date?</p> <p>Mr Bray—I cannot quote the date off the top of my head. I will have to check that and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—You can take that on notice. Can you tell us approximately?</p> <p>Mr Bray—It was in early to mid-December.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—That is fair enough. I would appreciate it if you could get us the actual date. Since that time, what was the \$32,000 spent on?</p>	Answer received 29/03/07

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P9	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA30	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Can you take on notice to supply us, when they are available, the actual dollar figures contained in the contract that you are drawing up at the moment? When are you expected to finalise those?</p> <p>Mr Bray—I would say in at least six to eight weeks, because there are the initial negotiations for the contract and then it has to go through the approval process.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Ms Penfold, if you could undertake to table those figures when they are available, it would be appreciated. The committee well understand that we cannot have that information until it is available. Before you table it, what is the number of incidents in the last couple of months?</p>	INTERIM answer received 29/03/07
P10	DPS	Murray	F&PA32	<p>Senator MURRAY—Do you have protocols which prevent inappropriate use of your legitimate system? Do you have a means of ascertaining whether inappropriate use has occurred? Those are the safety mechanisms you need. Obviously, in my example, the tax office did, because they could catch people, and obviously the police did in my example, because they could catch people.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—I might have to take that on notice in terms of all the detail, particularly about what our protocols might be. However, we do have a situation where, if someone was looking at emails that they had the privilege to but it was not a requirement of their job, that would be logged as part of the normal system processes. So that access would be in there somewhere. If we discovered it then, there would be a number of things that we would be able to do, but I would have thought that an investigation for a breach of the Code of Conduct would be a starting point.</p> <p>Senator MURRAY—What I am asking for—and you should come back to us with the answer—is this: is there a system which guarantees the integrity of your access, and, if there were inappropriate use, would it and could it be picked up?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—The answer is that we do have the system, but I will have to get back to you on notice with the detail.</p>	Answer received 29/03/07

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P11	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA34	<p>Senator FAULKNER—First of all, I would like to know how many people—some public institutions and libraries do—purchase the bound <i>Hansard</i>.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I think there is a group who purchase them from the printer, as it were, independently of us.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—But do you know how many there are that do that?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—No, I do not know off the top off my head. I think we do have that information somewhere.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—If you could provide it to me, I would appreciate it. Do we have that there or not?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I do not know if we will, because it is not our information. It will be with the printers and we may have to get it from them.</p>	Answer received 29/03/07
P12	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA38	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I ask on notice if we could have a copy of the draft response that is being prepared by Ms Missingham.</p>	Answer received 29/03/07
P13	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA46	<p>Senator FAULKNER—That is fair enough. I understand now that the charge from ASIC per search is \$35. Is that right?</p> <p>Ms Missingham—I do not know, but I can find out.</p>	Answer received 29/03/07
P14	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA47	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Can you provide the committee with a copy of those 44 recommendations?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—Certainly.</p>	Answer received 12/02/07

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P15	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA53	<p>Mr Nakkan—The two transactions requested are for the laying of carpet. The \$32,000 transaction is for laying carpet in nine suites around the building—that is senators, members and ministerial suites. The bulk of the \$16,000 transaction—the \$12,500—is for vinyl replacement in the Senate print room, \$1,400 is for the Parliament Shop, \$720 is for viewing room repairs and patching small damage and a further \$320 is for a patch in the Prime Minister’s suite.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Thank you for that. Can you take on notice the members’, senators’ and ministers’ offices? There is no need to go through them now, but just take them on notice.</p> <p>Mr Nakkan—The actual ones replaced?</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Yes. Thank you.</p>	Answer received 29/03/07
P16	Senate	Wong	Written	Attached	Answer received 01/03/04
P17	DPS	Wong	Written	Attached	Answer received 29/03/04
P18	Senate	Wong	Written	Attached	Answer received 01/03/04
P19	DPS	Wong	Written	Attached	Answer received 14/05/07
P20	Senate	Wong	Written	Attached	Answer received 01/03/04
P21	DPS	Wong	Written	Attached	Answer received 14/05/07
P22	Senate	Wong	Written	Attached	Answer received 01/03/04
P23	DPS	Wong	Written	Attached	Answer received 29/03/07
P24	Senate	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 01/03/04
P25	DPS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 14/05/07

Please note that answers 1-25 are due by 30 March 2007.

Written QON

P 16 - 17 (WONG) FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RECRUITMENT AGENCY SPENDING

- (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 reduction in recruitment spending on external agencies?
- (4) What benefit-cost assessments have been done which benchmark internal recruitment processes and/ or on utilising on line recruitment portals?

P 18 – 19 (WONG) FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

OPINION POLLS/ MARKET RESEARCH

- (1) What sum was spent on opinion polls, focus groups or market research in 2006 by each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (2) Will the Ministers provide a list of the opinion polls, focus groups, or market research agencies what are used by department and agencies in the Minister's portfolio?
- (3) How much of the opinion polls, focus groups or market research expenditure of agencies or departments was conducted at the request of the Minister's office?
- (4) What benefit-cost assessments have been done which assess the returns from opinion polls, focus groups of market research?

P 20 – 21 (WONG) FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS

- (1) What sum was spent on each of the active advertising campaigns for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (2) In attachment A – a list of active campaigns that were tabled in on 30 October 2006 at Senate Estimates, what were the actual costs for those which have been completed as relevant to each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (3) At the Budget Estimates in May 2006, the Budget Papers listed the following Pending Campaigns (from Budget Papers: period up to 4 years)

Campaign	\$M
Smart Card	47.3
Child Support Reform	36.1
Promote Private Health Cover	52.1
Medicare direct mail	17.5
New family law arrangements	19.9
Independent contractors	<15
Pensions real estate/assets test	5.9 (at least, over 2 years)
Smart Traveller	13.1
Alcohol abuse	25.2
Citizenship	4
Disease risk factors	
Child care rebate	
Family Law arrangements	
Illicit drugs and mental	

illness	
Living in Harmony Initiative	

(4) For those campaigns which are relevant to each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, what is the:

- (a) planning progress for campaigns;
- (b) likely start dates; and
- (c) media spend.

P 22 – 23 (WONG) FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

MONITORING USE OF WATER IN DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

- (1) Is there any requirement to provide details of how much water is used and how much water is saved in the annual reports of each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (2) Is water usage monitored for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (3) What is the water usage for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (4) For each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, can information be provided on whether dual flush toilets are in place in the buildings they occupy?

P 24 - 25 (LUDWIG) FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

With regard to all grants allocated by the department/agency from 1 January 2002, could a table detailing the following information be provided:

- a. The name of the grant program
- b. The name of the grant recipient
- c. The ABN of the grant recipient (where available)
- d. The value of the grant awarded
- e. The date the grant was awarded
- f. The state of the grant recipient
- g. The postcode of the grant recipient