

**ESTIMATES 2007-08 — ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES, February 2008**  
**Questions on Notice (QON) index—Parliamentary Portfolio**

Answers to QON taken during the Additional Estimates hearing, or written QON submitted thereafter, are due on 4 April 2008.

**Note: At 02/04/08 answers to all Parliamentary Portfolio Questions on Notice have been received.**

QON No.	Department	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question	Comments/ date answer received
P1	Senate	RAY	F&PA 4	<p><b>Mr Evans</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—So subsequent to the then government getting a majority in the Senate no select committees were established.</p> <p><b>Mr Evans</b>—That is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—Do you know how many were knocked back?</p> <p><b>Mr Evans</b>—No. We would have figures for that, but I do not know off-hand.</p>	Answered 25/02/08
P2	Senate	RAY	F&PA 5–6	<p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—In relation to the average two from 1996 to 2005, would it be possible for you to tell me how many were chaired by government senators and how many were chaired by opposition senators? We know that the Senate Select Committee on Superannuation was chaired by a distinguished senator here for many, many years, as a government member. Do we have those figures?</p> <p><b>Mr Evans</b>—We can get them for you.</p>	Answered 25/02/08
P2	DPS	FIFIELD	F&PA 13	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—But there would be some sort of electronic record as to whether it was the person themselves who had logged on or whether it was someone who was accessing it via this other route?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—I do not know exactly what the nature of such a record would be.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—Would you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—Yes, we can give you that.</p>	Note: this question is not related to P2 above. Answered 02/04/08.
P3	DPS	MURRAY	F&PA 15–16	<p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—On the same question, could you undertake, on notice, to give us an aggregate figure of the number of additional people listed under the Senate and House of Representatives. I am not talking about departmental staff; I am talking about people who have been</p>	Answered 02/04/08.

				<p>signed on by the offices of senators and members. To put it briefly into context: 76 senators with four staff in theory makes over 300 people. You have got to add the volunteers, part-timers, advisers et cetera, so it will escalate quite a lot, but I would like to just get a general sense of how many are on the system from senators and from members—just an aggregate.</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—We can get that, but possibly not today.</p>	
P4	DPS	RONALDSON	F&PA 16	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—It was widely reported that the Prime Minister changed the furniture over again when he came in. What was the cost associated with that removal and retrieval?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—I am inclined to say there was no cost, although there would have been a small cost associated with the time of our staff that did the carrying in and carrying out.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Do you want to take it on notice?</p>	<p>Answered 02/04/08. Partially answered on F&amp;PA 40—no cost has yet been provided</p>
P5	DPS	RAY	F&PA 18	<p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—While you are checking that, could you check with the cleaners whether they raised objections to the damage that was being done?</p> <p><b>Mr Nakkan</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—Could you also raise with them the fact that they were told to ‘p- off’ and mind their own business. You might check that while you are checking.</p>	<p>Answered 02/04/08.</p>
P6	DPS	FIFIELD	F&PA 19	<p><b>ACTING CHAIR</b>—...I have never quite understood why security is enhanced by the bollards only operating on Sunday afternoons before a sitting week and after 4.30 but not on any other day of the week. It is something that has eluded me. If you could provide any advice in relation to the hours of operation and the rationale for that, I am sure that would be helpful.</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—We can go back to the original security threat assessment advice and see what that says.</p> <p><b>ACTING CHAIR</b>—That would be helpful.</p>	<p>Answered 02/04/08.</p>
P7	DPS	FIELDING	F&PA 21	<p><b>Senator FIELDING</b>—Is there anything that would stop this from happening? Is it just a request to go in? Common sense should say that it should happen. If you have it on the computers of ministers and their staff, I am trying to work out what would then be the next steps to see this happen with the computers of federal members of parliament and their staff. What has to happen for this to happen? Is it a request from somewhere? I thought common sense would prevail here.</p> <p><b>The PRESIDENT</b>—I cannot answer that question. I will just say that I will take some advice, and I will get back to you and see what we can possibly do.</p>	<p>Answered 02/04/08.</p>

P8	DPS	RAY	F&PA 23	<p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—I had some dim memory that, when this building was designed and opened, some of the open space was always reserved as a possibility for future offices. Was that the case? I thought it was.</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—I am sorry, Senator; I do not know. We could go back through our records to see whether there was any of that. When I saw this review that I just referred to, when I saw that draft report, I do not recall any reference to that, although there were some observations by the consultants who did the review that the space in the building could be used differently.</p>	Answered 02/04/08.
P9	DPS	MURRAY	F&PA 28	<p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—With relation to the Library, Ms Missingham, can you let me know whether the level of staff turnover, particularly of senior staff, has over the last year been higher than in previous years?...</p> <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—If you do come back with information, and there is a noticeable difference, could you outline the reasons for it in your answers to questions?</p> <p><b>Ms Missingham</b>—Yes.</p>	Answered 02/04/08.
P10	DPS	FIFIELD	F&PA 29	<p><b>ACTING CHAIR</b>—Ms Missingham, I am not sure if this is correct but it has been put to me that in the various divisions of the Parliamentary Library—the economics, foreign affairs, trade and defence divisions—the balance between staff with postgraduate qualifications and staff with undergraduate qualifications is changing. One of the great things about the library is that we have seriously smart people who are experts in their fields, with terrific postgraduate qualifications, there to provide advice and assistance to us. I was just wondering if it is true that that balance is changing with the number of people with PhDs and masters degrees that you have as opposed to graduates...</p> <p><b>Dr Romeyn</b>—We are actually undertaking an audit at the moment, through our sections, of the qualifications that people had in the branch prior to our continuous improvement review and restructure, so we will be able to give you more accurate information in relation to that question subsequently, but we have not gathered it all yet.</p>	Answered 02/04/08.
P11	DPS	FIFIELD	F&PA 30	<p><b>ACTING CHAIR</b>—How frequently has the discretion to pay relocation expenses been exercised, say, over the last 12 months?</p> <p><b>Ms Missingham</b>—It might be useful if we came back to you also to tell you how many people have come from interstate, because I can only recall two that have come from interstate, so we are not talking about a very large group. Perhaps we can come back with that.</p>	Answered 02/04/08.
P12	DPS	B.BROWN	F&PA 32	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—...I want to talk about the closing of the access to the front of Parliament House last Tuesday. There was an Aboriginal convergence on the lawns in front of Parliament House and then the band arrived as a presage to the firing of the 21-gun salute. I was certainly amongst MPs who were prevented from gaining access to the front door of Parliament House. Who authorised that closure of access to Parliament House?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—Could we take that on notice? We are not aware of any closure of the front entrance.</p>	Answered 02/04/08.

P13	DPS	B.BROWN	F&PA 33	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—...The woodlands on top of Capital Hill were removed to build this great building and the seed bank was kept. The intention was to put them back into what are now the grassed areas...because we are moving into not a period of drought but prolonged new weather due to climate change, which is drier—whether that option might not be looked at again amongst the couch grass and other options that are being investigated to see whether native grassland and bushland is not an option for all those green areas we see around Parliament House, as was originally intended.</p> <p><b>The PRESIDENT</b>—I have no idea what the original intention was. I guess that we can find out whether what you are proposing to us was indeed the case and, again, it can be an item for discussion between me and the Speaker.</p>	Answered 02/04/08.
P14	DPS	FIERRAVANTI- WELLS/RAY	F&PA 35	<p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—We did a survey of building occupants to get advice on where they considered there to be mobile phone reception bad areas or black spots. We have since had discussions with Telstra, who—and I think I have this right—run the network within Parliament House on behalf of all the mobile phone providers. Therefore, it is their responsibility to upgrade it, if upgrading is necessary. As a result of that audit and some technical testing that Telstra did, we have identified a number of spots that are not adequate and Telstra are now going to fix those.</p> <p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—Do you have a timetable on that?</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Yes, that is right.</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—I am just checking—commence remediation work by the end of—sorry, Senator, that is some old detail. I will have to take the time frame on notice.</p>	Answered 02/04/08.
P15	DPS	ABETZ	F&PA 37	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Was any extra cleaning required in the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's office in the Senate prior, I hasten to add, to my moving into that office?...</p> <p><b>Ms Griffith</b>—I am not aware of any, but I can check for you.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—If you could take that on notice, thanks.</p>	Answered 02/04/08.
P16	DPS	C.BROWN	F&PA 38	<p><b>Senator CAROL BROWN</b>—Are you able to give me a time line of when we hope that children will be able to be catered for?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—I would like to take that on notice simply because I would really prefer to have some advice from the provider as to when they think they can start. As I think I said to you last time, we will do it as soon as we are able. It is simply a question now of getting the contract settled and getting the refurbishment work done.</p>	Answered 02/04/08.
P17	DPS	ABETZ	F&PA 40–41	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—I was just going to ask one further question and that is about the autonomy of senators in their offices. If a senator requested a key to the window, would they be given one? Would they be allowed to open their window?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—The issue of keys, as I said earlier, goes to the Department of the Senate. As I said a minute ago, I do not know what the consequences of having windows open might be and maybe we</p>	Answered 02/04/08.

				<p>need to get some advice on that...</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—I do not know the source of the original decision.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Can you take that on notice and just see what can be done?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—Yes.</p>	
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