

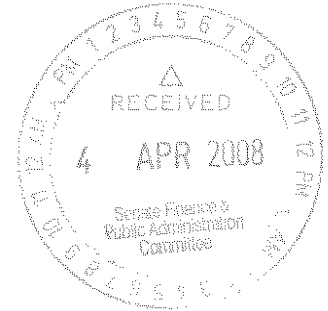
**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Additional Budget Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008**



**Question: 119**

**Outcome 1, Output 4**

**Topic: Media Liaison**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 141**

**Senator Ronaldson asked: Senator RONALDSON - Does each department have a media liaison officer who would work with the minister's office in relation to the preparation of press releases?...**

**Ms Belcher - There would be occasions when the department might draft a media release and send it up to the office. There is no central person. For example, I, in the past, have drafted media releases about the appointment of a secretary and sent it up to the Prime Minister's office for changing, for issuing. Another part of the department might do a press release on another matter...may I add to the answer I gave just now on media liaison officers. I am told that on occasions-when, for example, our ceremonial and hospitality area is managing a major visit-a media liaison officer might be engaged on a short-term contract.**

**Senator RONALDSON - Is that external?**

**Ms Belcher - Yes, that is right.**

**Senator RONALDSON - Has that contract been with the one company or the one person, do we know, for any period of time?**

**Ms Belcher - Just one moment; I will check.**

**Senator RONALDSON - Thank you.**

**Answer: During larger and more complex high-level visits to Australia, the Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch sometimes employs a media liaison officer for a defined period. More than one company has been used for this purpose.**