

## **Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee— Additional Budget Estimates February 2009**

### **Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services**

#### **Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Topic: Pass issue – spouses of former members of parliament.**

**Questions P11, Hansard reference F&PA 36**

**Senator FERGUSON**—There is one other issue, in relation to passes: has there been a change of policy in relation to the spouses of former members of parliament?

**The PRESIDENT**—Not that I am aware of, but we can take that on notice.

#### **Answer**

1 The current pass policy, endorsed by the Presiding Officers in September 2007, does not provide an entitlement to a photographic pass for the spouses of former Senators or Members. This is consistent with previous pass policy.

2 However, a number of spouses of former Senators and Members were issued with photographic passes, contrary to the policy. There are seven of these passes currently active. These passes will not be renewed upon expiry.

3 It is recognised that spouses of former Senators and Members will require a pass when they attend events such as the Former Members' Association annual meeting. For events such as these, the spouses, or other accompanying persons, of former Senators and Members will be issued with a non-photographic pass valid for the duration of the event. Such a pass would give the holder the same access rights, during that event, as a photographic passholder.

4 The Presiding Officers wrote to the President of the Former Members' Association in July 2008 to advise him of these arrangements.