

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

Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Answers to Questions on Notice

Topic: Internet streaming of Committees – current arrangements.

Question P5, Hansard reference F&PA 20

Senator LUNDY—I would like to ask some questions about information technology in the building. What is the current status of internet streaming of sessions of parliament and the parliamentary committees?

...

Ms Lynch—That is correct. We certainly always do the chambers. Committees are often done at the request of the committee secretariat or the committee chairs.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Is it only by request?

Ms Lynch—I will have to check on that. I am not entirely certain about that.

Answer

1 This question was answered later in this session (just after the break) by Ms Therese Lynch (refer F&PA Hansard, pages 21 and 22).

Ms Lynch—Senator Lundy just before the break asked how we actually decide what gets webcast. The answer to that is that the committee secretariat requests broadcasting on HMS, and on that request we always then automatically broadcast by webcast streaming. We can broadcast up to a maximum of seven televised events at once. That will normally include two chambers in a sitting week, the Main Committee and four parliamentary committees. At any point, if we exceed the ability to televise, we would then ask the committees to prioritise, but that does not often happen.

Formerly 700 people could concurrently view the webcast of parliament. On 12 February, I have just been advised, we increased the bandwidth allocated to webcasting and now 1,080 people can watch the webcast via the Parliament House website can currently.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—If we televise internally, is there a fair chance then it is being webcast as well at the same time?

Ms Lynch—Yes, it is. If you can see it on HMS, the likelihood is that it is also being webcast at the same time. The only time it would not be was if there were more than seven going at any given time.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—On those occasions when I have gone looking for a committee that I am participating in from my office and it is not being televised, that is more that the secretariat has not sought to have it done as opposed to any other factor?

Ms Lynch—Very likely, yes.