

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

Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Answers to Questions on Notice

Topic: Guidelines on Mural Hall functions

Question P9, Hansard reference F&PA 29

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—I am not sure if I am in the right place, but I have a question, while we are on functions, about the set out of functions in the sense of dinners that occur in the Mural Hall. I have had this discussion in the past in terms of how they lay themselves out and the extent to which that becomes difficult for members and senators, particularly senators attending committee hearings, and I have noticed in the last 12 months that that is becoming a problem again. Mr Thompson, I am not sure whether you recall what I am talking about here, but a problem that a number of senators find is that they come through the doors in the central area to make their way to a committee room and all of a sudden find themselves essentially in the middle of a dinner function. Are there guidelines about how dinner tables can be set up and established in that space, so that it does not interfere with the operations of the parliament?

Ms Griffith—I would have to take that on notice.

Answer

2 The Department of Parliamentary Services (**DPS**) determines the procedures in relation to the management and setup for all DPS-managed venues in Parliament House. The InterContinental Hotels Group (**IHG**) has exclusive access to the Mural Hall as a catering venue.

3 The procedures for the Mural Hall include ensuring areas on either side of the Mural Hall remain unencumbered by a function. Retaining this free space ensures that access is retained through the Mural Hall and also maintains access to and from lifts and the glass linkways servicing the area. This space is designated by rope barricades and appropriate signage—as marked in the floor plan at **Attachment A**.

4 Since the Estimates hearing on 23 February 2009, DPS has reminded IHG of this requirement and will now regularly audit IHG's compliance with this established procedure.

Attachment A

Mural Hall

Floor Plan for Seated Guests

