

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Budget Estimates Hearing—February 2011**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Exemptions to security screenings**

Question: **10**

Hansard reference **F&PA p.24, 21 February 2011**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011

Ms Graham—We have a policy arrangement whereby certain people are exempt from screening in certain situations. I understand that for the opening of parliament the Governor-General is exempt from screening. The intention of that policy is that only the Governor-General is exempt and the entourage would not be. I would need to take on notice the detail of that.

Senator PARRY—Could you confirm that. From my observation that was not the case.

Senator FIFIELD—The justices of the High Court?

Ms Graham—The justices would be included in that as well.

Senator FIFIELD—What would you include them in?

Ms Graham—Being exempt from screening for those ceremonial events.

Answer

1 The Governor-General, their spouse or partner and accompanying party have a standing exemption whenever they visit Parliament House.

2 The Chief Justice is afforded a screening exemption for the Opening of Parliament because this position is appointed by the Governor-General as the Deputy Governor-General for the swearing-in of Members to the House of Representatives.

3 The remaining Justices were provided with a one-off screening exemption as part of the ceremonial arrangements for the Opening of the 43rd Parliament. This exemption was authorised by the Usher of the Black Rod in accordance with the normal approval procedures.