

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2013

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Disposal Policy**
Question: **143**
Hansard Reference: **p35, 11 February 2013**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Senator FAULKNER: The other thing I was just going to ask was whether there had been any new concerns brought to light in relation to the new disposal policies or assessment of the old disposal policy but, again, you might care to take that on notice.

Ms Mills: I would be very happy to give you an update on how that is working.

Answer

Since the implementation of the new disposal policy and guidelines in October 2011 and the report on progress that the Secretary of DPS provided at the October 2012 Estimates hearings, no new concerns have been raised.

The following actions have been undertaken to support the new policy.

- With the support of the Parliament House Heritage Advisory Board, a formal agreement has been reached across the parliamentary departments on the development of a common policy for the identification, assessment and recording of cultural heritage items within Parliament House. To progress the development of common heritage management policies, DPS has (in addition to training its own staff) run heritage and disposal awareness training for Department of the House of Representatives staff on 19 February 2013 and for Department of the Senate staff on 6 March 2013.
- The Chamber departments have agreed to the identification and assessment of their culturally significant items. Items that are identified as potential heritage items will be assessed by an independent expert and, if deemed to be significant to Parliament House, will be entered into the Arts and Heritage database. This work will be undertaken at DPS's cost and a quote for the independent assessment will be sought once a list of items with potential heritage value under the custodianship of the Chamber departments has been identified. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by the end of the financial year.