

ESTIMATES HEARING 26 MAY 2003 FURTHER INFORMATION

The following further information is provided to the committee in relation to a matter raised at the committee's hearing on 26 May 2003.

Senator Murray asked the Clerk: *is it possible for you to advise the Presiding Officer in advance of the areas of savagery that you might be forced to consider if you had to implement the \$1.2 million savings?* (transcript, p. 25)

The implementation of the \$1.2 million reduction in the Senate Department's budget, postulated by the Department of Finance, to fund additional security measures, could be achieved by the loss of approximately 20 staff or by the elimination of some current activities and by 'cheeseparating' administrative expenditure. The most likely approach would be a combination of all three.

Measures which might be taken could include:

- No replacement of senators' laptop computers and portable printers — \$327 210
- No replacement of senators' scanners — \$30 400
- Cease support for the Former Members' Association — \$5 000
- Cancel the intermediary role carried out by staff in Senators' Services —
 - cease transport services, senators book cars through Comcar directly — \$45 000
 - close stationery store — \$38 400
- Cease discretionary entitlements for senators — \$98 400
(magazine subscriptions, diaries, newspapers, Christmas cards)
- Ditto departmental staff — \$13 370
- Charge media organisations and lobbyists an annual bureau fee for use of Table Office inquiries services and cease all mail & freight support to the Press Gallery — \$85 000
- Cease some sitting-night services from 6pm — \$93 000

- Cease the President's Richard Baker Memorial Prize — \$3 000
- Cease the Senate Department Occasional Lecture Series — \$20 000
- Cease the Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate project — \$365 000
- Press Clippings in electronic form only — \$27 000
- Abolition of Papers on Parliament series — \$13 000.