

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Parliament Portfolio

Department of the Parliamentary Library

Budget Estimates 2003-04, May 2003

Question: P6

Topic: Podger savings

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Senator Ray asked:

Senator ROBERT RAY—We will put your two hats on here because that will mean we are operating more efficiently. As head of the library and as head of DPRS, have you looked at the Podger report? How realistic do you think the potential savings are there?

Mr Templeton—I actually think the savings can be realised. My recollection of the figures that Andrew had put to the Appropriations and Staffing Committee after consultation with the five departments was, I think, about 25 staff in the corporate areas.

Senator ROBERT RAY—How many would your two areas lose?

Mr Templeton—We were not going to lose all that many because the library has outsourced most of its corporate processing to DPRS anyway, but my recollection is that between the two departments I think we lost about five. I am sorry; can I take that on notice and get the exact figures for you for both departments? We were not a huge contributor to the 25.

Answer:

The Podger Review estimated a reduction of 2 SES positions and 4 positions at director level across all three of the current service departments (no breakdown by department was done). For the 25 staff below Director level, the estimated departmental contributions were:

Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff – 2
Department of the Parliamentary Library - 5.

These 'departmental' figures are notional as the nature of any implementation process will influence the way savings are achieved, as will the structure adopted for the corporate services function of a new, single service department.