

**Budget Estimates 2003-04  
Questions on Notice Index  
Parliamentary Departments**

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
P1	JHD	Faulkner	12	<p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Is someone from the parliamentary departments able to nail down this drop-off in visitor numbers in more detail?</p> <p><b>Mr Bolton</b>—Sure, Senator; that is no problem. I can give you very specific information because we have kept such information ever since the building opened. We can tell you, virtually on a weekly basis, how many visitors we have had through the door over previous years as opposed to the last year.</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—I would appreciate that. Will you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Bolton</b>—Yes.</p>	Answered 8/7/03
P2	Senate	Murray	24-25	<p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—Yes. I am not really satisfied with your response, if I may say so, and I do not mean that in any rude sense. I mean it in the sense of being equipped to argue a case in the parliament concerning the parliamentary appropriations bill. As Senator Ray has clearly indicated, if there is a thought in the Senate's collective mind that it has been blackmailed and that our Presiding Officer has been rolled, or whatever the emotive word you want to use, the Senate might be of a mind to get difficult over that appropriations bill. We need to be equipped not only with a view on the Podger matter but also on the efficiency dividend matters. The forward estimates have to be part of our consideration during the discussion on the bill. I ask you again: 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?</p> <p><b>Mr Evans</b>—We could certainly do that, yes. And we will do that if it is believed that that would be helpful.</p> <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—It is my view; I do not know whether the committee concurs. I would find it of assistance.</p> <p><b>Mr Evans</b>—I think that is sufficient for us to perform that sort of exercise in the next few weeks.</p>	Answer received 13 June 2003 [hard copy received 16 June]
P3	DPL	Murray	32-33	<p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—Do the National Archives go to this as well? [re IFLA]</p>	Answered 14/7/03
P4	DPL	Faulkner	36	<p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Who were the consultants there? Is it in the PBS? You can point it out.</p> <p><b>Miss Membrey</b>—I do not think it is.</p> <p><b>Mr Johnston</b>—I cannot think of the exact title of the firm but essentially it is Brenda McConchie and a group of people who have assisted her. I will take the title of the firm on notice.</p>	Answered 14/7/03
P5	DPL	Faulkner	37	<p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Let's go back a step. Was the fact that this consultant had been contracted reported to the Library Committee?</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—I believe so but I will check and take it on notice.</p>	Answered 14/7/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
P6	DPL & DPRS	Ray	39	<p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—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?</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—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.</p> <p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—How many would your two areas lose?</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—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.</p>	<p>Answered 14/7/03</p> <p>One for each department, both 'P6'</p>
P7	DPL	Faulkner	46-47	<p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Can you provide a list of which staff and which program the staff on AWAs come from?</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—I can give you the numbers and rough categories. I can't tell you the programs but we can give that to you in detail. There are two SES employees, four parliamentary executive staff and two parliamentary service staff—the level PS6 and below.</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Could you take that on notice and we can revisit it at a later stage?</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—Yes. Do you just want the current AWAs?</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—What has the previous pattern been like?</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—Do you want us to give the numbers to you for the last two or three years?</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—That might be useful. What is the pattern, in a broad sense?</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—There would not be very much movement, but I am happy to give you the numbers for the last three years, if that helps.</p>	<p>Answered 14/7/03</p>
P8	Senate	Ray	51	<p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—Mr President, on how many occasions in the last 12 months has disciplinary action had to be taken on these matters? [re. Inappropriate use of the internet]</p>	<p>Answered 18/6/03 email 19/6/03 h-c</p>
P9	DPL	Ray	51	<p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—Mr President, on how many occasions in the last 12 months has disciplinary action had to be taken on these matters? [re. Inappropriate use of the internet]</p>	<p>Answered 14/7/03</p>
P10	DPRS	Ray	51	<p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—Mr President, on how many occasions in the last 12 months has disciplinary action had to be taken on these matters? [re. Inappropriate use of the internet]</p>	<p>Answered 14/7/03</p>
P11	JHD	Ray	51	<p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—Mr President, on how many occasions in the last 12 months has disciplinary action had to be taken on these matters? [re. Inappropriate use of the internet]</p>	<p>Answered 8/7/03</p>

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P12	DPRS	Murray	56-57	<p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—So there has been no consultation by the government with you, who manages one of the prime targets of spamming in this country—that is, parliamentarians.</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—Not that I am aware of. If it were to happen, it would happen in the other department, because DPRS manages the network, but I have not been advised of any approach or consultation.</p> <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—But you head DPRS?</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—Yes, that is what I am saying: with my other hat on, I have not been advised of any approach, discussions or consultation. I would have assumed that, if it had happened, the National Office for the Information Economy might have been involved in that, but I have not been advised of any approach to us.</p> <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—Could you take that on notice, just to check that your department has not been approached.</p> <p><b>Mr Templeton</b>—Yes, certainly.</p>	Answered 14/7/03
P13	DPRS	Ray	61	<p><b>Senator ROBERT RAY</b>—Is there a damages clause in the contract if they do not perform?</p> <p><b>Mr Ward</b>—I cannot answer that. I could take it on notice. I should say that while there have been significant delays, one of the reasons is that we can only do testing and work on this during non-sitting periods. It has always been frustrating for everyone that once sittings start, we have to walk away from the building and we can only come back when it is a non-sitting period.</p>	Answered 14/7/03
P14	DPRS	Watson	n/a attached	Written questions on notice relating to the One Office IT platform	Answered 14/7/03
P15	Senate	Carr	n/a attached	Written questions on notice relating to SES officers.	Answered 18/6/03 email 19/6/03 h-c
P16	Senate	Carr	n/a attached	Written questions on notice relating to SES officers.	Answered 18/6/03 email 19/6/03 h-c
P17	DPL	Carr	n/a attached	Written questions on notice relating to SES officers.	Answered 14/7/03
P18	DPL	Carr	n/a attached	Written questions on notice relating to SES officers.	Answered 14/7/03
P19	DPRS	Carr	n/a attached	Written questions on notice relating to SES officers.	Answered 14/7/03
P20	DPRS	Carr	n/a attached	Written questions on notice relating to SES officers.	Answered 14/7/03
P21	JHD	Carr	n/a attached	Written questions on notice relating to SES officers.	Answered 8/7/03
P22	JHD	Carr	n/a attached	Written questions on notice relating to SES officers.	Answered 8/7/03



SENATOR JOHN WATSON

**Implementation of “One Office” computer platform:**

1. Given that there do not appear to be any efficiency gains, why was the new “One Office” platform introduced for Parliamentary departments at Parliament House?
2. If increased security for the parliamentary network was the main factor, were alternatives other than “One Office” considered?

**Adequacy of training for “One Office”:**

3. What training was provided to staff of the various parliamentary departments before the implementation of “One Office”, and after the implementation of “One Office”?
4. How adequate was the training provided?
5. Wasn't the introductory course just a presentation marketing the package, without any reference to its known shortcomings and how these might need to be addressed?

**OH&S issues associated with “One Office”:**

6. I understand that you were aware that the “One Office” platform was introducing a system which had extended file pathways and required many more mouse clicks and key strokes to complete virtually every task/function. Why didn't you alert the HRM sections of the parliamentary departments (including the Senate and its Committee office) to these issues so that appropriate action could be taken to alleviate any real or potential impact of “One Office” on OH&S in the workplace?
7. As the coordinating department for IT in Parliament House, have you monitored the impact of “One Office” on OH&S across the various parliamentary departments?

**Technical Problems with “One Office”:**

8. What has been the number and nature of calls for assistance reported to Client Services since the rollout of “One Office”?
9. Which of these problems have you a) been able to solve;  
b) been unable to solve or provide a workable and acceptable solution to; or  
c) been unable to explain?
10. Is it true that some of the problems or “bugs” can't be fixed because of basic design flaws?
11. How has the problem of changing the American dictionary (as the default dictionary) been addressed?

12. Has the problem with the report template "track changes" feature, used in the Committee offices of both the Senate and House of Representatives, been fixed?

**Roll out of "One Office" to Senators and Members:**

13. I understand that the "One Office" platform is being rolled out to Senators and Members later this year. What assurances can you provide that when the platform is rolled out to Senators and Members, "bugs" and problems identified by staff currently utilising the platform will have been addressed?

**Parlinfo Web/Alert Service:**

1. Why was the system of accessing media clippings electronically through the alert service offered by the Department of the Parliamentary Library changed this year to access via the ParlInfo Web?

2. What problems have been identified with the complex system you introduced? For example, I understand that some of the problems have been:

- Amalgamation of daily clippings/profile, instead of just daily clippings. This occurred for several weeks.
- Access to PDF document is more difficult because it is on the second screen, not the first.
- The print prompt for the PDF file does not fit on the screen.
- The password recognition feature does not work.
- The user name required didn't work at first.

3. Given that these problems can and have contributed to OH & S issues for staff, what has DPRS done to alleviate the problems and simplify access to electronic media clippings?

4. I understand that the requirement to enter a user name and password was to enable DPRS to collect statistics on the use made of the service. How valid are the statistics being gathered, given that they are not measuring access to the clippings through the internal ParlInfo database?

## **P15, P17, P19 & P21**

Written questions from Senator Carr to each parliamentary department:

Please direct these questions on notice in relation to all Ministers, departments and each statutory authority staffed under the Public Service Act/Parliamentary Service Act within the Minister's portfolio covered by your committee.

- (1) What were the numbers of Senior Executive Service staff at each SES Band level at 30 June 1996 and at 30 June for each subsequent year including the number and level of SE staff as at 31 March 2003?
- (2) What were the minimum and maximum salary levels for each SES Band, whether determined by Australian Workplace Agreements or otherwise, as at 30 June 1996 and at 30 June in each subsequent year, including those at 31 March 2003?
- (3) What were the numbers of staff with salaries overlapping SES salaries as at 30 June 1996 and at 30 June in each subsequent year, including as at 31 March 2003 and what were the minimum and maximum levels of these salaries?
- (4) How many people are currently employed other than under the Public Service Act, including under contract arrangements, at salary levels equivalent to the SES and what are the minimum and maximum levels of the salaries paid?

**P16, P18, P20 & P22**

Written questions from Senator Carr to each parliamentary department:

Please put these questions on notice for every portfolio covered by your committee.

(1) Have any agencies within your portfolio introduced arrangements whereby SES or other staff who are entitled to a motor vehicle as part of their remuneration are able to cash the vehicle out and have the cashed out amount count as salary for superannuation purposes?

(2) If so:

- (a) When were these arrangements introduced and do they still apply?
- (b) In what agencies do they apply?
- (c) What was the policy justification for the arrangement in each agency?
- (d) Were any actuarial calculations made of the long-term costs of these arrangements? If so, what were the details of these estimates? If no calculations were made why was this not done?