

## Estimates 2005-06 — Budget Estimates, May 2005

## Questions on Notice Index—Parliamentary Departments

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P1	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 18 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—How many formal meetings has the negotiating group had? [re: Certified Agreement Negotiating Group]</p> <p>Mr Kenny—It seems like a lot. I can find out the actual answer, noting that I understand that there were some meetings of the group prior to me joining the department.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Sure. And it has been ongoing since then?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—Yes.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I see.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We can get you the details of the meetings.</p>	Answer received 8/7/05
P2	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 26 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—You may have it here, but if you do not I understand. Could you provide a list of those other classifications where these anomalies occur?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We will have to do that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—If you could take on notice the other anomalies and the nature of the anomalies, that would be helpful. You said earlier that in relation to the restructure you had received 10 to 12 submissions.</p> <p>I think that is what you told us.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—Yes.</p>	Answer received 8/7/05
P3	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 27 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Is there any reason why the submissions could not be made available to the committee? If there is a privacy concern, obviously that could be dealt with.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—That would be my only hesitation. They were submissions made to me. I do not know whether the individuals would like them to be tabled. If they did not mind, then I am quite happy for them to be tabled. I can go back and ask the individuals.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I would appreciate that.</p>	Answer received 8/7/05
P4	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 34 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I would have hoped that we could do a bit better than that. All right; what is this change to the locks costing?</p> <p>Mr Ward—I would not know. I would have to take it on notice, sorry.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—We will have to take that on notice.</p>	Answered received 24/6/05

<b>QON No.</b>	<b>Department / agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Hansard reference</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>P5</b>	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 35 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—An awful lot more—exactly. Do we know how many locks there are in Parliament House? Ms Penfold—No, I cannot tell you that off the top of my head, either. Senator FAULKNER—Mr Ward, that would be your area of expertise. Mr Ward—I would have to take it on notice.	Answered received 24/6/05
<b>P6</b>	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 35 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—...Can someone in the Department of Parliamentary Services tell me if they have started to change the locks in Parliament House? Do we know that? Mr Ward—I will have to take that on notice.	Answered received 24/6/05
<b>P7</b>	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 45 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—Is there any reason why this document could not be tabled and then we can have a look at it? Ms Penfold—The tender document? Senator FAULKNER—What document are you— Ms Penfold—Of course. It is a public document. It has been on our web site. We can certainly table it.	Answered received 24/6/05
<b>P8</b>	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 51 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—This material is publicly available, isn't it? Obviously the letter would not be. Mr Cossart—No, the letter would not be. Senator FAULKNER—No, but what is available—the RFT and specifications? Mr Cossart—The tender documentation would have been. It was a public tender. Ms Penfold—We could provide that. Senator FAULKNER—I would appreciate that.	Answered received 24/6/05
<b>P9</b>	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 53 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—Did the complaint come from an Australian tenderer? Mr Cossart—Yes, it did. Senator FAULKNER—Could you provide a copy of that? Mr Cossart—And the replies? Senator FAULKNER—By all means. Who provided the replies? Mr Cossart—I drafted it and the secretary signed it and sent it away. I briefed the secretary on it.	Answered received 24/6/05

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P10	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 62 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Thank you. When was the paper taken off the web site?</p> <p>Mr Newman—I am not sure that I have the exact date for when it was taken off the web site.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—We know when these complaints were received: the one from Ms Halton was received on 1 December 2004 and the one from Dr Stewart of the New South Wales government was received on 2 December 2004. That is correct, isn't it, judging by the date stamps?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—Yes.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—It would be useful to know when the paper was taken off the web site.</p>	Answer received 8/7/05
P11	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 62 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Could we also have tabled Dr Verrier's draft response? Would that be possible?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—In due course it would, yes.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Thank you. Was a final response sent?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—Yes, final responses were sent. Would you like those too?</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—It might be useful for the completeness of the record.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I might also volunteer the formal request that I made to Dr Verrier to review the paper.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—That would be helpful.</p>	Answer received 8/7/05
P12	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 65 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—So how many attended? Do we know that?</p> <p>Mr Newman—I do not know, but I can find out for you. Can I take that on notice?</p>	Answer received 8/7/05
P13	Senate	Carr	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
P14	DPS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
P15	Senate	Carr	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
P16	DPS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
P17	Senate	Carr	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
P18	DPS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
P19	DPS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05

<b>QON No.</b>	<b>Department / agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Hansard reference</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>P20</b>	Senate	Carr	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
<b>P21</b>	DPS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answered received 24/6/05
<b>P22</b>	Senate	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
<b>P23</b>	DPS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
<b>P24</b>	Senate	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
<b>P25</b>	DPS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05

Please note that answers are due on 8 July 2005

### **Written QON**

#### **P13 & P14**

#### **Performance pay**

1. Is performance pay available under your department/agencies certified agreement?
2. If so how many staff in your Department/Agency are eligible for performance based pay?
3. Please provide a breakdown of performance pay awarded for this financial year to date including the following details:
  - (a) How many staff have received performance pay?
  - (b) What levels are those staff at?
  - (c) What gender, a breakdown please?
  - (d) How much has each staff member received?
  - (e) When did they receive it?
  - (f) What was the rationale for the awarding of performance pay in each instance?
  - (g) Did the Department/Agency head receive performance pay?
  - (h) How much?
  - (i) When?
  - (j) On what grounds?

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**P15 & P16****Efficiency Dividend**

1. What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your Department/agency this financial year and in the out years?
  2. The increase in the efficiency dividend was announced in last year's elections, what plans have you made to meet it?
  3. What will this mean for staff numbers?
  4. Will any specific programs be cut? Please specify which ones and the size of the estimated savings?
  5. Will any core functions be affected by these savings measures?
  6. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your graduate recruitment plans?
  7. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your ability to retain experienced staff?
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**P17 & P18****AWAs**

1. How many staff are covered by AWAs in your Agency/Department?
  2. Can you provide a break down of AWA's by gender and by classification?
  3. Can you tell me how many of the staff on AWA's are paid more than the band for their classification under the certified agreement?
  4. Why were these staff not simply promoted to a higher classification?
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**P19****Parliamentary Library**

When will the technical problems with the links provided with the Library's Alert Service, that have arisen due apparently to new IT conditions outside the Library's direct control, be rectified? Why is this issue not regarded as having the highest priority? Please provide a report on the handling of this issue.

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## **P20 & P21**

### **Parliamentary Departments**

1. In respect of the Department of the Senate and the Department of Parliamentary Services and its predecessor departments, can details along the lines of the notice 1577 (23 June 2003) concerning overseas travel by the secretary and each senior executive from the period 1 June to date, and where a spouse or partner accompanied the officer, the costs paid out of Departmental funds for the spouse or partner?
  2. Can details be provided on the same basis and over the same period for officers below SES level, including departmental costs of any accompanying spouse or partner?
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## **P22 & P23**

### **Legal service expenditure**

1. What amount did the Department spend during the financial year 2004/2005 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor, and any others)?
  2. What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004/2005?
  3. What amount did the Department spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
  4. Does the Department have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004/2005 actual cost of this section? What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004/2005? What is the budget amount for this section in 2005/2006?
  5. What is the total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 for the Department?
  6. Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Department in 2004/2005?
  7. In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
  8. Does the Department use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, p 42) when procuring legal services?
  9. If a select tendering process is used: (a) which method of select tendering is used and (b) which firms or individuals are currently eligible to tender for legal services?
  10. If a multi-use list is used: (a) which firms or individuals are currently on that list and (b) when was the list last opened for applications?
  11. In 2004/2005 did the Department obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost?
  12. In 2004/2005 did the Department procure any legal services under the thresholds required for 'covered procurements' (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.
  13. In 2004/05 did the Department contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.
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**P24 & P25**

**A follow-up to a question Senator Ludwig asked in December ...**

1. Regarding the employees that your department or agency has identified as having:
  - (a) fluency
  - (b) accredited translator
  - (c) accredited interpreter
2. Of these employees, please indicate what the department is doing in order to make full use of its employees skills in this regard, and please provide a breakdown of this between employees whose accreditation was paid for by the department and those whose were not?