

ESTIMATES 2007-08 — BUDGET ESTIMATES, MAY 2007
Questions on Notice index—Parliamentary Departments Portfolio

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question	Comments
1.	Senate	Faulkner	7	Senator FAULKNER —Could I suggest in the meantime that figures are obtained from DEST about the numbers accessing the PACER program and where they are coming from. I suppose I could do that by asking a question on notice, but it seems to me that it is something that might be useful for the Department of the Senate to take initiative on, given the concerns that you and the Clerk have expressed, which I think are shared around this table broadly by senators.	Answer received 30/05/07
2.	Senate	Faulkner	9	Senator FAULKNER —Yes. That was February 2006, so we are now talking about 15 months or so ago. There have been a few reminders going off to the minister for finance about this issue, haven't there? Mr Evans —Yes, there have. Senator FAULKNER —Do we know how many? Mr Evans —No. I would have to make a count and get back to you on that. But certainly it has been raised in writing and orally on a number of occasions.	Answer received 01/06/07
3.	Senate	Faulkner	11	Senator FAULKNER —Is it true these printers are now over a year out of warranty? Ms Griffiths —Yes, it is. We are replacing those that break down and cannot be fixed with new ones until the tender process is complete. Senator FAULKNER —What stage is this tender process up to? Ms Griffiths —That question might be better addressed to DPS. I am unsure. I can get that information for you. Senator FAULKNER —If you could, I would appreciate it.	Answered pp. 14-15
4.	DPS	Fifield	13	CHAIR —Thank you. Could it be taken on notice, taking into account that 752,000-odd people come through each year, what the figure for sales per visitor would work out to? Can you also take on notice if DPS will look at the merits of	Answer received 29/06/07

				outsourcing of the Parliament House shop? It just seems odd that, given this is an outfit with a monopoly and the visitor numbers each year are strong, it would actually be forecasting a slight decline.	Note: spending per customer last year was approx \$17.39
5.	DPS	Fifield	13	CHAIR —Can you also take on notice if DPS will look at the merits of outsourcing of the Parliament House shop? It just seems odd that, given this is an outfit with a monopoly and the visitor numbers each year are strong, it would actually be forecasting a slight decline.	Answer received 29/06/07
6.	DPS	Murray	14	<p>Senator MURRAY—Is there any sense that a reduced number of visitors may be a consequence of the increased security we have been obliged to put into the building? I gathered the implication from your remarks was that if you try and divide normal entrants—in other words, building occupants and normal visitors—from shall we call them tourist visitors, you might find that tourist visitor numbers have decreased, and that would affect the shop sales.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I think tourist numbers have definitely decreased, and they have been decreasing since probably about 1990. I could get the figures for the full 19 years.</p> <p>Senator MURRAY—So it is not a security consequence?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I would not like to assert that either way. It is possible that there was some impact from the security changes. It is possible, for instance, that there was a temporary impact while we were doing such a lot of building work on the security changes. Whatever it was, I think it was part of a larger trend which I suspect reflects the fact that a lot of visitors, especially Australians, came here after the building was finished to have a look; and, once they had been here and had a look, they did not need to come back. Visitor numbers started back in the early days at about a million a year. In heading for 20 million visitors in 20 years, we are running out of a local customer base. But we will get those figures for you and see whether there are any better trends.</p>	Answer received 29/06/07
7.	DPS	Faulkner	17	<p>Senator FAULKNER—How many people have been rejected for a photographic pass as a result of a police records check?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I do not have those figures. I can get them for you if you would like to give me a period.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I would like them.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I do not mean that I need time to get them. I mean over what time period do you want them—for the last 12 months, for the last five years?</p>	Answer received 29/06/07

				Senator FAULKNER —Let us have a look at them for the last five years. That would be helpful.	
8.	DPS	Faulkner	24	Senator FAULKNER —When did the Security Management Board come up with the idea about the police checks issue? Ms Penfold —The policy was sent to the Presiding Officers in the second half of last year. I could find an exact date at some point for you. It has been under discussion by the Security Management Board for the best part of three years. I think that there were some police checks in the policy at the point when I came to the department but I could not give you a guarantee of that. We would have to go back through Security Management Board minutes over, as I said, those three years to see at what point police checks on groups were raised.	Answer received 29/06/07
9.	DPS	Murray	28	Ms Penfold —The President tells me that police checks can involve Interpol, but I am not sure they do for the basic \$36 ones that we obtain. Senator MURRAY —If you do not know and you are not completely across it, perhaps you could let the committee know. It would be interesting to know what it does not cover as opposed to what it does cover. Ms Penfold —We can follow that up.	Answer received 29/06/07
10.	DPS	Murray	29	Senator MURRAY —So I would ask you, on notice, to consider whether the Appropriations and Staffing Committee should look at the non-security issues that have been raised here, as opposed to the purely security ones, which relate to how a police check occurs, what happens, and so on. Ms Penfold —I am not sure that it is up to me to decide what the Appropriations and Staffing Committee looks at, but— Senator MURRAY —Let me rephrase the question. I would then ask the President to think about that. I do not think it is something that you need to do immediately. I think this is more sensitive than is apparent on the surface.	Answer received 29/06/07
11.	DPS	Faulkner	41-2	Senator FAULKNER —Right, so it is \$40,000 for the architect for the Prime Minister’s dining room. What about the mechanical consultant for the Prime Minister’s dining room? Mr Bray —I do not have those figures with me right now but I can find out. Senator FAULKNER —I would appreciate that. What about the fire consultant for	Answer received 29/06/07

				<p>the Prime Minister's dining room?</p> <p>Mr Bray—I will need to get the figures for all three of them—fire, electrical and mechanical.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—And electrical?</p> <p>Mr Bray—Yes.</p>	
12.	DPS	Murray	43	<p>Senator MURRAY—With respect to common-sense energy saving, I am sure there are times when members and senators, for instance, run out of their offices to catch a flight and leave lights on. Are your cleaning staff and others who go into offices instructed to switch off lights and check that everything is off?</p> <p>Ms Barrett—I am not sure about that. I would have to check with facilities. I am aware that Senate and, I think, House of Representatives staff make sure, certainly at the end of parliamentary sitting periods and so on, that those things are done. I will check to find out what general instructions there are.</p>	Answer received 29/06/07
13.	DPS	Wong	53	<p>Senator WONG—Just while that is being cleared for tabling, you might have answered this: who was on the panel which determined the successful architect?</p> <p>Mr Bray—I would have to go and check that.</p>	Answer received 29/06/07
14.	DPS	Wong	55	<p>Senator WONG—Table it with the caveats; we know that. You have already said that; that is a political argument.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—You have already got the figures, so you do not need to know any more.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—You have been talking to Joe Hockey!</p> <p>CHAIR—Senator Calvert, are you seeking to take that question on notice?</p> <p>Senator WONG—Chair, are you just going to let that go?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—I will take it on notice and give the committee an answer further down the track.</p>	Interim answer provided 29/06/07
15.	DPS	Wong	56	<p>Senator WONG—So how many meetings have there been subsequent to 7 December 2006?</p> <p>Mr Bray—I would have to check; I cannot remember. It would be at least two or three meetings.</p>	Answer received 29/06/07

				<p>Senator WONG—At least two or three?</p> <p>Mr Bray—Probably, yes. I would have to go back and check our records.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Who is in charge of this, Mr Bray?</p> <p>Mr Bray—It comes out of my section. I would have to ask one of my staff to go back through the files and check how many formal meetings there were.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Can they do that today?</p> <p>Mr Bray—Yes, we can.</p>	
16.	DPS	Wong	57	<p>Senator WONG—I think you said previously that there was a meeting which Mrs Howard attended, but this is not one of these.</p> <p>Mr Bray—I was not present at that meeting. I think that was before I commenced work with DPS.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—I can get the date of that meeting for you, but that was quite some time ago.</p> <p>Senator WONG—I am just trying to clarify that it is different from these meetings.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—Yes. It was well before the current architect had been selected and engaged.</p>	Answer received 29/06/07
17.	DPS/Senate	Faulkner	57	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I have another question about refurbishments. Can you let me know what the costs were for the new kitchen for the Deputy Government Whip in the Senate and why it was installed?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—It does not ring any bells.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I just had a government senator skiting to me about what a terrific job it was. I just wanted to check it out. I always do those sorts of things. It is called accountability.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—It does not appear to be ringing any bells on this side of the table. We will get someone to follow it up.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Thank you.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—My understanding is that it was a matter for Senate rather than DPS. There was a request from both the Deputy Opposition Whip and the Deputy Government Whip regarding arrangements in their kitchens. I do not know any more than that. I can get some information.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—If it is a matter for the Senate, we can ask them next time</p>	Senate answer received 21/05/07 DPS answer received 29/06/07

				around, which will be a long time in the future. The PRESIDENT —We can get those answers.	
18.	DPS	Faulkner	60	Senator FAULKNER —Thank you for that. The only other thing I was going to ask for in relation to the Parliamentary Library was a very brief update in terms of the journals backlog waiting to be added into ParlInfo. Are you able to give us a status report on that? Ms Adcock —I cannot give you the exact figures. There is still some backlog, but I could take that on notice.	Answer received 29/06/07
19.	DPS	Faulkner	NA	Please see attachment below	Answer received 29/06/07

Please note that answers 1 - 19 are due by 6 July 2007.

Written QON

P19 (FAULKNER)

Please provide a full list of powers and authorisations delegated to the Secretary of DPS and by the Secretary of DPS, with the following information for each:

The nature of the delegation

The person who has delegated their power

Criteria used in the exercise of that delegation

Whether there are any qualifications on the delegation or the exercise of that delegation.