

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee—Budget Estimates May 2008

Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Answers to Questions on Notice

Topic: Hire of the Great Hall - cost and comparison

Question P10, F&PA 41

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Could you also take this on notice: in previous years, what has been the policy regarding hire? You have indicated to me the policy regarding the hiring of the Great Hall. Perhaps you could just go back and look at that in a historical context and at what has traditionally been the usage of the Great Hall. In the context of that, was anything different this year? Why was anything different this year? And what was the basis of authorisation of that? Could you also take on notice how much is charged for hire of the Great Hall, how that is broken down, and how it compares with similar sized venues in Canberra.

Mr Kenny—We can certainly answer how much is charged and what the breakdown is. We can try and get something...

The PRESIDENT—There is also one part of that question that the department will not be able to answer, and that is in relation to, 'Why was it different this year?' The reason it was different this year was because of a decision of the Presiding Officers, not of DPS.

Answer

- 1 Prior to 2008, tables for the Budget Night function in the Great Hall were allocated by the Parliament House caterer (Hyatt Catering) according to their internal booking policy.
- 2 The Presiding Officers approved the budget night venue booking policy for 2008 on 17 March 2008. The 2008 Budget Night policy made the Great Hall and Mural Hall available exclusively to the Government and Opposition respectively.
- 3 The set up fee (or hire charge) for a catered function in the Great Hall is \$3,000. This amount includes the set up of tables and chairs, linen and all crockery and cutlery. Cleaning costs and security charges are billed to the client through the Hyatt but are not included in the venue set up or hire fee.
- 4 Audio visual services are charged to the client directly from the audio visual provider.
- 5 Venue set up or hire fees for similar sized venues in Canberra are as follows:
 - (a) The Hall, National Museum of Australia—\$2500;
 - (b) The Great Hall, Hyatt Hotel Canberra—\$3000, and
 - (c) Exhibition Hall, National Convention Centre—\$2000.

