

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 3, Program 3.1.1

Topic: Access to online data from the Parliamentary Library

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Senator Ryan:

I am not sure whether it is appropriate to ask you to chase up the issue of the views of the Parliamentary Library on the current network infrastructure and speeds. I appreciate that you have probably had formal consultations with them, but informally staff have been told that they should not try to access particular services.

Mr Quester—We do meet with DPS on a regular basis so that we can have those discussions.

Answer:

The Parliamentary Library advises staff that if they have problems in accessing or downloading data when in an electorate office that they should contact the Library to request a media copy be sent to the office.

Video services are resource intensive and can consume large amounts of bandwidth depending on their format. The Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) is aware that there are some video services available in Parliament House that can not be successfully downloaded and replayed with good clarity in the electorate offices, particularly if there are multiple users wishing to do so at the same time.

Finance is currently upgrading Electorate Office line speeds, which will improve both the clarity of transmissions and response times. Finance has accepted an offer from the Parliamentary Library to participate in a project to examine the issues that impact the successful transmission of these particular services.