

**ESTIMATES 2010–11 — BUDGET ESTIMATES, May 2010**  
**Questions on Notice (QON) index—Parliamentary Portfolio**

Answers to QON taken during the Budget Estimates hearing, or written QON submitted thereafter, are due 9 July 2010.

QON No.	Department	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question
P1 <sup>1</sup>	Senate	Ronaldson	5	Mr Hallett—or someone—that the Sennet keeps the PDFs of its daily clips on the website for about a week. Is that right? Mr Hallett—Yes, approximately a week, on the intranet. Senator RONALDSON—Are those PDF files archived after that? If so, is there any way those PDF files can be made available to Sennet users rather than forcing them to do a date search on Parl Info? Mr Hallett—I would have to take that on notice.
P2	DPS	Ryan	13	<b>Senator RYAN</b> —the library committee on 17 June... Could I ask that you take on notice and table—questions on notice are not due until 9 July—the final agreement and the processes by which these decisions will be taken so that this committee is also made aware of them, as well as, obviously, the library committee to whom you report?
P3	DPS	Ronaldson/Forshaw	26	<b>Senator RONALDSON</b> —Ms Missingham, I think probably everyone is acutely aware now of what has happened and the deplorable position that the Parliamentary Library has been placed in. You indicated prior to morning tea that—these were your words, I think—you were aware that similar things had happened or behaviour had occurred with other agencies. Could you expand on that for me? <b>Ms Missingham</b> —I would have to get some more information. The last time that it was raised at estimates where we had an issue of communication would have been about nine to 10 years ago. I can get you some further information on that. I do not have it on hand. ... <b>Senator FORSHAW</b> —I would be very happy if you would provide it, thank you.
P4a	DPS	Fifield	30	Minister Bowen's office, would Mr Daniels have kept a file note on that conversation? <b>Ms Missingham</b> —I do not know, but I can find out. <b>Senator FIFIELD</b> —Could you enquire as to whether he kept a file note on that conversation? If so, could that also be provided to the committee? <b>Ms Missingham</b> —Certainly.

<sup>1</sup> Answer received 24/05/2010

P4b	DPS	Fifield	30	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—I appreciate that. Ms Missingham, could you also take on board whether there have been any other conversations between the Library and Minister Bowen’s office or the Library and Centrelink?</p> <p>Again, if there were file notes of those conversations, could they be provided to the committee as well?</p>
P5	DPS	Ronaldson	36	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Then, when that person went on maternity leave, her husband was moved over to fill the upgraded-duty position that she held when she went on maternity leave; was that right?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—That one does not ring any bells with me. We can investigate that.</p>
P6	DPS	Ronaldson	40	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—I am sure that in November I will have some further information from someone who disagrees with you. When you were looking for someone to put on to assist in this role you, did you go out and advertise this through the Public Service?</p> <p><b>Ms Graham</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
P7a	DPS	Ronaldson	41	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—I am advised that about 12 months ago the position of manager of the Parliament Shop was eliminated in an organisational restructuring; is that right?</p> <p><b>Ms Graham</b>—I would have to take that specific question about which positions were abolished and which were created on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—One of the managers, someone with many years of service, was made redundant.</p> <p><b>Ms Graham</b>—There were a number of staff in the Facilities section whose positions were identified as no longer being part of a new structure. I would have to take on notice the exact detail of which positions were made redundant, because there certainly was more one.</p>
P7b	DPS	Ronaldson	41	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—And the position was upgraded to encompass management of both the gift shop and the gym; is that right?</p> <p><b>Ms Graham</b>—I would need to take that on notice.</p>
P8	DPS	Ronaldson	43	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Mr Kenny, in relation to that first matter discussed this morning with the PA, the husband, the upgrade and the replacement et cetera can you take it on noticed to give me some background to that and also provide me with information about the processes that were followed in relation to those appointments on the back of apparent merit-based processes?</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—Yes.</p>
P9	DPS	Ronaldson	43	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—And, Ms Graham, you are going to take on notice the matter in relation to Mr Konig and the process that was gone through there?</p> <p><b>Ms Graham</b>—Yes.</p>
P10	DPS	Ryan	53	<p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—It is possible that the blocking software changes, because obviously the people that write these tools have to have a dynamic capability so that if new sites become known about and have to be blocked then they can update the databases that we have running here.</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—It seems to have a particular problem with <i>The Punch</i>.</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—I am sorry. When it is unblocked, that unblock should be an ongoing unblock. I will take on notice and investigate for you exactly what has happened over the last, say, six</p>

				months and why it has been blocked and then become unavailable again.
P11	DPS	Ryan	54	<p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We used one particular provider to give us the service against those criteria for quite a period and then we changed provider during 2009. I cannot recall exactly when.</p> <p><b>Mr Kenny</b>—That was 2009.</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—Could you take on notice and table for the committee the criteria by which—or the brief—you have asked websites to be blocked, so that I might have a chance to look at that?</p>
P12 - 17	Senate/DPS			Written – see below
P18	Senate/DPS	Birmingham		Written – see below

### **Written Questions on Notice**

#### **Staffing**

##### **P12 – All Departments – Senator Barnett**

How many permanent staff recruited since additional estimates (Feb 2010)?

What level are these staff?

How many temporary positions exist or have been created since additional estimates?

Since additional estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

#### **Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts**

##### **P13 – All Departments – Senator Barnett**

Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?

- Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?
- Since additional estimates?

If so, where and at what level?

Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.

If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say ‘improvement to strategic work practices’ or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)

What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

#### **Hospitality**

##### **P14 – All Departments – Senator Barnett**

What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?

Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.

Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

#### **Reviews**

##### **P15 – All Departments – Senator Barnett**

What is the total number of Reviews *both completed and ongoing* in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?

Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since the government came to office (only those commenced after the current government came to office) including

- when those reviews were provided to Government,
- estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and
- if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review.

How many reviews are ongoing?

How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?

What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?

### **Consultancies**

#### **P16 – All Departments – Senator Barnett**

How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).

Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total *spending* on consultancies and also *value of contracts awarded*? Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.

Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?

How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

All answers should be current at the time the answer is submitted.

### **Government Payment of Accounts**

#### **P17 – All Departments – Senator Barnett**

Has the portfolio/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)

For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?

Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

### **Buildings' energy efficiency**

#### **P18 – Department of Parliamentary Services and Department of the Senate – Senator Birmingham**

Please list every building occupied by the Department.

For each building:

- Has an energy efficiency audit been undertaken? If so, what rating was achieved and what action has been taken to improve energy efficiency as a result of any audit undertaken?