

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2011

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Definition of published document

Question: 10

Hansard reference F&PA p.29, 23 May 2011

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Senator MARSHALL: Just following up from my previous questions can you tell me what actually constitutes a published document?

Ms Missingham: A published document is, for example an annual report of a department or a budget statement. For us published does not just mean something is on the internet. We have had a definition of published for a number of years that is possibly a little bit vague, but equivalent to the definition, roughly, which is in the Copyright Act of a published document.

Senator MARSHALL: Would you be able to provide to the committee the definition that you use for a published document at some point?

Answer

1 Senator Marshall's question (as noted above) follows up on evidence that the Parliamentary Librarian gave a little earlier (ref. p27 of the F&PA Hansard for 23 May 2011) that the Parliamentary Library "will give advice on material that is published or publishable".

2 So far as it is consistent with copyright law, clients must be able to use the information and advice received from the Parliamentary Librarian in any form or manner of their choosing. For this reason, it is essential that all the material used in preparing responses is in the public domain or is suitable to be put in the public domain.

3 The definition of "published document" that the Library uses covers material that is publicly available. This includes material that is already in the public domain, or is suitable to be in the public domain in print or electronic format. Library staff do not work with resource material that carries a security classification, is commercial-in-confidence, or is otherwise restricted.