

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Senator the Hon Bob Carr's electorate office

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F48

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, pages 8-9, 24 May 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RYAN: I would be interested in knowing a couple of issues and I would like to be very precise about this. When you started to incur leasing costs for the office, presumably at some point before that you would have, if that has not happened yet, incurred the costs that Senator Faulkner and I were just discussing, which might be communications costs, which might be set-up costs and general electricity and other consumables. I would also be interested in knowing, if you have not taken over the lease as yet, whether or not you sought or undertook any advice with respect to Commonwealth liability for an office. And I consider, if you do not have the lease yet but that is still an office for which you are paying electricity and telephone bills, and you have got employees of the Commonwealth in there, you presumably would have looked at when the Commonwealth took over some liability from a workers compensation point of view or from an insurance and public liability point of view. Are those issues you considered, given that this appear to be an office in transition, in a leasing sense?

Ms Mason: We can have a look at the cut-over dates for those things, but essentially if Senator Carr had staff engaged as MOP(S) Act employees then, yes, from that point we would we would—

Senator RYAN: From that point on there was Commonwealth interest in this office and a potential Commonwealth liability because of the fact, at the very least, that there were Commonwealth employees and MOP(S) Act employees in that office.

Ms Mason: We will check on the detail.

Answer:

The Department commenced a lease arrangement for Senator the Hon Bob Carr's electorate office from 6 March 2012. All costs associated with the running of this office therefore commenced from this date, as did liabilities associated with workers' compensation and insurance.