

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Staff Dining Room screen**
Question: **68**
Hansard reference **F&PA p.43–44, 21 May 2012**

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

Senator FAULKNER: ... What about the screen that was designed by Mr Giurgola, the architect, that was down there? What happened to that? Wasn't that a valuable artwork?

Ms Graham: Senator, I am not sure of the screen that you are referring to.

Senator FAULKNER: My pronunciation might be imperfect, but I think it was called a Keiko Schmeisser screen, which was considered by many to be a significant work of art. Did that just get thrown out in the trash?

Mr Tate: I am not aware of the screen, so I would have to—

Senator FAULKNER: That sounds right, yes.

Mr Tate: I was in the Senate at that point.

Mr Kenny: Senator, we will take your question and do some investigation.

Answer

There was only one screen in the Staff Dining Room at the time of the refurbishment. That screen was not part of the Parliament House Art Collection and not an item of 'commissioned art furniture'.

DPS can find no records that indicate Keiko Schmeisser was involved in the design of the screen, nor any records that indicate Mr Giurgola may have been the designer of the screen.

During the 2009 Staff Dining Room Refurbishment project, the screen was disassembled for storage. Subsequently, as the screen was not part of the Parliament House art furniture collection, it was disposed of (around \$80 was received for the metal components).