

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

November Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 4 November 2003

Question: 2

Outcome 3 Efficiently Functioning Parliament, Output 3.1 Services to Senators, Members and their Staff

Topic: Finance Annual Report Consultancy Appendix

Hansard Page: F&PA 89

Senator Faulkner asked:

What I am asking for is the date and a broad explanation. We have heard what Mr Gavin said but there are three separate advices being sought here. I would like a more complete description but I am not seeking the advices; I am just seeking an understanding of what the advice was sought on, which of course is a proper matter for a committee like this.

Answer:

The detailed description and dates of the services provided for the three consultations with the Australian Government Solicitor in the order shown in the Annual Report are:

	Description	Date
•	Examination of the draft Life Gold Pass Bill and associated regulations and provision of advice on a range of matters including 'the definition of spouse', 'the definition of commercial business', 'whether limiting the number of trips constituted acquisition of property on other than just terms for the purpose of paragraph 51(xxxi) of the constitution', 'the provisions relating to disqualification if convicted of a corruption offence'; and advice on legislative framework relating to entitlement usage.	Various dates 2002-2003
•	Advice regarding the operation of section 11 of the <i>Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990</i> in relation to benefits provided under the Parliamentary Entitlements Act and Regulations and Remuneration Tribunal Determinations.	13 March 2003
	Examination of the draft Parliamentary Entitlements Amendment Regulations 2003 – these covered a range of matters including overseas travel, printing entitlements and the electorate office entitlement.	May-June 2003
•	Provision of advice on the meaning and implications of section 13 of the <i>Parliamentary Allowances Act 1952</i> .	4 September 2002

Date: 4 December 2003

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