

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2003-04
Questions on Notice Index
Parliamentary Departments

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
P1	Senate	Faulkner	7	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Were there any additional costs borne by the Department of the Senate that you are aware of in relation to these visits?</p> <p>Ms Griffiths—Yes, and Mr Crane also has those details. Overtime costs would have been higher that day. We have now negotiated an MOU with Joint House and we have capped the level of security funding at \$19.3 million, which is shared—half by the Senate and half by the House of Representatives. Joint House cannot go over that cap, so it has to be found within those funds. There were no additional costs to the Department of the Senate, except the Clerk did offer the Senate department staff who were not required to come in on that day to be on paid leave at home. The cost of that, assuming that every person in the department was on leave for half a day, was approximately \$23,700.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—But you would have a record of how many. I appreciate the decisions that were made in relation to staff. You would have a record of how many staff actually attended and how many didn't, I assume.</p> <p>Ms Griffiths—Not with me today, but I can get that for you.</p>	Answered 21/11/03
P2	Senate President's Office	Brown	27	<p>Senator BROWN—We have established that there was not a vote of the Senate. It is another matter that there was a call for a division, within that joint meeting, which was ignored by the Speaker. That division was not taken. Seeing you were advocating that the House of Representatives rules applied pretty widely, can you tell the committee where, in the House rules, it says that if a senator—or a member, for that matter—is asked to leave the House, that member must do so? Could you quote that standing order?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—I do not have it in front of me.</p> <p>Senator BROWN—Would you like to find that standing order and furnish it to the committee?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BROWN—Thank you.</p>	Answered 26/11/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
P3	Senate President's Office	Brown	30	<p>Senator BROWN—I would agree with that point that there should be no such meetings without the parliament separately and together determining the rules and the constitutionality of them. But I want to move on to the President's statement that the letter to the Usher of the Black Rod and to the Serjeant-at-Arms, which came jointly from you and the Speaker, after the Thursday morning meeting, contained the words:</p> <p>We hereby authorise you and officers under your direction to take appropriate measures, including in the event that it is necessary, preventative force, to enforce the suspension—of Senator Nettle and me. You said that the original words were a little bit stronger. What were they?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—They were stronger.</p> <p>Senator BROWN—What were the words?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—I do not have them in front of me. I do not remember actually.</p> <p>Senator BROWN—Can you get them for the committee?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—I do not know. That is something I will think about. Does it really matter?</p> <p>Senator BROWN—Yes, it does.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—Why?</p> <p>Senator BROWN—Because we are trying to establish the way in which extremely important decisions are made about whether or not elected members of parliament can take part in a meeting with other elected members of parliament. It is very important to determine how those decisions were made. I would ask you to—</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—The reason that letter was jointly signed was that the Speaker of the House of Representatives wanted the security attendants to know that, if they had to stop either senator entering the House of Representatives under his instructions, they had written authority. I became involved because the security staff operate under joint authority of the presiding officers.</p> <p>Senator BROWN—I am asking you again whether you will furnish the committee with the original words.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—I will see if I can find a copy of the original draft that was sent to me, but I do not know whether that is available. I will see.</p>	There is further discussion on this matter at F&PA 83-4 3-11-03 Answered 26/11/03
P4	Senate	Faulkner	53	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Are you aware, Mr Evans, whether positions for secretaries of parliamentary departments are advertised internally—government gazettes, this sort of thing?</p> <p>Mr Evans—I am not aware of what processes have been followed in past cases. I would need to check that. It is not something on which I have information available to me.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I would be interested to know about the pattern, but I accept what the President has said.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—If there is any more up-to-date information, I will get back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I am sure the committee would be interested if there is any more information.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT—Certainly.</p>	Answered 21/11/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
P5	Senate President's Office	Faulkner	53	<p>Senator FAULKNER—So a formal report to the Presiding Officers? The PRESIDENT—Yes. Senator FAULKNER—Effectively, if you like, a status report on where the process was up to? The PRESIDENT—Exactly. Senator FAULKNER—Can you say when that was provided to you? The PRESIDENT—We can provide that to the committee on notice.</p>	Answered 26/11/03
P6	DPL	Faulkner	56	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Dr Verrier, has a formal report from the IFLA trip been finalised yet? Dr Verrier—Yes, there has. Senator FAULKNER—Would it be possible for the committee to be provided with a copy of that? Dr Verrier—Certainly.</p>	Answered 9/12/03
P7	DPL	Faulkner	56	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I also wonder if we could have, on notice, a breakdown of the external consultancies. I think a gross figure is provided in the annual report but, if we could have a breakdown of that, I would appreciate it. Mr Templeton—Yes, we can certainly do that.</p>	Answered 9/12/03
P8	DPRS	Faulkner	60	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I would appreciate that. That would be helpful. You did not have contact from any media organisations—CNN or those sorts of groups about the draft transcripts? Mr Templeton—Not that I am aware. Senator FAULKNER—I want to be clear on that.</p>	Answered 12/12/03
P9	JHD	Faulkner	72	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Is there any reason—and there might be; that is why I am asking you the question in this way—now why that operational order cannot be tabled in this committee? There may be; I do not know what it contains. It sounds unremarkable in what you have said but there may be some sensitive material in it. Mr Crane—It is classified security-in-confidence. It does contain operational issues in relation to security arrangements within Parliament House. I would want to take that on notice and get advice. Mr Bolton—This sort of thing may be applied in the future, obviously, so we do not want to have it in the public domain. Senator FAULKNER—I am interested specifically in those arrangements that have been applied to the Australian press gallery and also to visiting international journalists. I appreciate there may be a range of other material contained in there. I accept the point that is made about the fact that there might be confidential security material contained within it, but I would appreciate it if you might look at seeing if certain elements of that might be able to be provided. The committee are always, as I think you know, sensitive about those sorts of things and we will take your advice on it. But I would appreciate you having a look at whether at least some of that material might be able to be made available.</p>	Answered 23/12/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
P10	JHD	Brown	76	Senator BROWN—So there were Chinese personnel within the gallery on the second day? Mr Crane—Yes. Senator BROWN—How many? Mr Crane—I do not have a number. I can take that on notice and get it for you. Senator BROWN—Thank you.	Answered 23/12/03
P11	Senate	Brown	82	Senator BROWN—How many seats were allocated by PM&C to the galleries? Ms Griffiths—I do not know, Senator. The ceremonial and protocol section would be able to advise you of that. Senator FAULKNER—But surely they would have advised the parliamentary officers about this in writing? There would have to be a paper trail on it. You would have to know. Ms Griffiths—Yes. There is a list available of all the guests who were asked. Senator BROWN—Could you provide that to the committee? Ms Griffiths—Yes, but I do not know whether mine is the final one. All the ones that I was involved in we provided to a central database in the Serjeant-at-Arms' office. I have a booklet and I am happy to provide it. I do not think it is confidential but I might just confirm that first. Senator BROWN—Thank you.	Answered 21/11/03
P12	JHD	Faulkner	87	Re: Bogong moths— Senator FAULKNER—Would you mind taking on notice for the committee the annual cost of dealing with this issue? I appreciate that there is a range of functions involved. We would appreciate getting some sort of understanding of that and also of the sort of staff resources that are involved. From time to time we tend to be a bit light-hearted about it. I am myself. I would have to plead guilty about making the odd light-hearted contribution on the matter, but it would be useful for us to understand the resources that are involved in this.	Answered 23/12/03
P13	JHD	Faulkner	88-89	Senator FAULKNER—Were there formal complaints from the press gallery about those cameras? Mr Bolton—There were, Senator. I apologised to the press gallery in the sense that we discussed matters about the installation of these cameras with the Joint House Committee. We developed some protocols over a period of time which the Joint House Committee accepted. Then we started working on installing these cameras and it was raised with me by the press gallery that they should have been consulted. I accepted that at the time and I said that, while we would proceed with installing the cameras, we would not implement them until such time as we had had proper consultations with them. I discussed the matter again with the Presiding Officers. That was done and there is now an agreement between the press gallery, ourselves and the Presiding Officers about the rules and regulations relating to the operation of those cameras. Senator FAULKNER—Are you able to say what that agreement is? Mr Bolton—I can ask the President. It has been agreed to by the Joint House Committee and by the Presiding Officers. Senator FAULKNER—Perhaps take it on notice. Mr Bolton—Yes, Senator.	Answered 23/12/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
P15	JHD	Faulkner	NA	Written question(s) attached.	Answered 23/12/03
P16	Senate	Carr	NA	Written question(s) attached.	Answered 21/11/03
P17	DPL	Carr	NA	Written question(s) attached.	Answered 9/12/03
P18	DPRS	Carr	NA	Written question(s) attached.	Answered 12/12/03
P19	JHD	Carr	NA	Written question(s) attached.	Answered 23/12/03

Question P15

**Senator Faulkner
Questions on Notice
Parliamentary Departments – Joint House
November 2003**

Mural Hall Parliament House

1. How many times has Mural Hall been hired in the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, and who by?
2. What individual, Department, agency, organisation or business paid for each function in the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?
3. What does it cost for a Member or Senator to hire Mural Hall for a function?
4. Are Members and Senators charged for the all uses of Mural Hall, and if not, outline the types of function for which charges are and are not made?
5. What types of functions can Members and Senators hire Mural Hall for?
6. What are the rules and guidelines for Members and Senators use of Mural Hall?
7. What does it cost for a Department, Agency, organisation, business or individual to hire Mural Hall?
8. What are the hiring rates for all functions and by type of function for Mural Hall?

Questions P16 (Sen), P17 (DPL), P18 (DPRS) & P19 (JHD)

Senator Kim Carr

Questions on notice to all departments

Work-life balance issues have been identified as important for the public service. The March 2003 Management Advisory Committee report Organisational Renewal discussed workforce planning issues, stating:

As the labour market tightens into the future, there will be increased pressure on attracting the skills required and maintaining competitive remuneration packages which support effective recruitment at the base grade and lateral levels.

Employment conditions and the capacity for work/life balance will be an important element of such packages, and may offer APS agencies a competitive edge ...

Increased flexibility in working patterns and arrangements will be an important part of the response to the demographic changes, recognising the life stage dynamics influencing workforce participation.

The APS has been a leader in providing family friendly work practices (e.g. part-time work, flexible working hours, home based work, purchased leave) and needs to continue in this role through flexible conditions and supportive management approaches as part of its attraction and retention strategy.

In light of the MAC report, the following questions are asked of each department:

- 1) What has been the department's response to the MAC report to date?
- 2) Which issues identified in the MAC report have been identified as priority areas for the department?
- 3) What family friendly or work-life balance initiatives:
 - a) exist in the department;
 - b) are available to staff through the certified agreement; or
 - c) are contained in the certified agreement, but the granting of them in individual cases is discretionary on the part of the organisation.
- 4) What family friendly or work-life balance initiatives has the department introduced in, or since, the implementation of the department's most recent certified agreement?
- 5) With respect to certified agreement-based family friendly or work-life balance provisions:
 - a) What number and proportion of departmental staff are making use of such provisions in areas including:
 - i) purchased leave (also known as 48/52 schemes);
 - ii) negotiated part-time work arrangements;

- iii) parental leave;
- iv) use of information, advice or counselling services made available by the department;
- v) departmental provision of facilities (such as family care facilities); and
- vi) home based work.