

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Supplementary Estimates Hearings - 1 November 2005

Question: F9

Outcome Cross Outcomes, Output All

Topic: Government Members Secretariat (GMS)

Written Question on Notice: F&PA 56 1/11/05

Senator Faulkner asked:

Mr Suur—No, that is not true. In addition to a formal assets register, which is a document that is kept, in a formal sense, for auditing purposes, we keep our own record of portable and attractive items that we own. That is a discipline that we have in different business groups, and we observe it in relation to ministers' officers and the GMS as well.

Senator FAULKNER—Could you provide a copy of that as it relates to the GMS?

Mr Suur—Yes, I could.

Senator FAULKNER—How often do you update the inventory? Is it on a regular basis? I assume it would be.

Mr Suur—In the light of you foreshadowing that you would ask this question this morning, I had somebody send me some information as at 31 October. They were able to derive that information fairly readily.

Senator FAULKNER—That is very helpful, and if you could provide that I would appreciate it. Could you ask them, also on notice, to provide similar information for, say, 31 July?

Mr Suur—2004?

Senator FAULKNER—Yes. You can throw in 2005, if you like. That would be good. You can provide 31 July 2004 easily, and you have got 31 October 2004.

Mr Suur—I have 31 October 2005. I have a list of what was held by the GMS as of yesterday.

Senator FAULKNER—I would like to go back to 2004. I want you to provide the end of July 2004, the end of October 2004, the one you have and, say, the end of February 2005. We can leave it there.

Dr Watt—We have taken that on notice.

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Answer:

Corporate Group maintains a 'live' register of assets on issue to the GMS that is updated as items are provided to, or returned from, the GMS. To enable the provision of the information sought, we have cross-referenced the current GMS asset register with purchase records to enable the reconstruction of the asset register as at the points in time identified by Senator Faulkner.

Asset Register for Government Members Secretariat			
July 2004	October 2004	February 2005	Item
1	1	1	Scanner
2	2	2	Fax Machines
3	3	3	Black and White Printers
1	1	1	Colour Printers
Various	Various	Various	Office Machinery*
2	2	2	Televisions with Videos
1	1	1	Digital Camera
1	1	1	Photocopier
11	11	11	Laptops with Peripherals**
2	2	2	PC Desktop with Machines

* Office Machinery includes items such as binding and laminating machines, shredder and Smart Label Printer.

** Peripherals include standard laptop bundles comprising items such as Port Replicator, Monitor, Keyboard and Mouse.

The committee was provided with a copy of the GMS Asset Register as at 31 October 2005 on 1 November 2005.

As part of the response to question F44 asked during the May 2005 Estimates hearings, the Committee was provided with a list of assets for the Government Members Secretariat as at June 2005.