

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation
Committee—Supplementary Budget Estimates 2005-06,
October 2005**

**Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary
Services**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Topic: Mobile phone coverage in Parliament House

Question: P5

Ms Barrett—I am not aware of any complaints recently but I would have to check to make sure that we have not logged any calls. I do recall that some years ago there were some investigations done about black spots in Parliament House. That was probably prior to the 2003 upgrade and, as I said, there was a further upgrade in 2005.

Senator FAULKNER—You might check whether there have been any complaints and let us know if there are any areas in the building where there is a problem. We know of that problem in Senator Minchin's office; there may in fact be others.

Answers

No calls have been logged in the DPS Service Request and Management system this year relating to mobile phone coverage.

DPS is not aware of recent complaints about areas in the building which may be a problem, other than Senator Minchin's office and the Ministerial Wing basement car park.

The three carriers, Telstra, Optus and Vodaphone are all aware of these two complaints. Telstra is the lead carrier and has undertaken to investigate whether any further work can be undertaken to improve coverage. This investigation will be a technical one, involving fine tuning the antenna system and replacing any faulty components in the first quarter of 2006.

An assessment of extending the mobile antenna system to areas such as the Ministerial Wing basement car park will be made at the conclusion of the "fine tuning" activity.