

## Estimates 2005-06 — Supplementary Budget Estimates, October – November 2005

## Questions on Notice Index—Parliamentary Departments

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P1	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 12, 31/10/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Let us start with access to certain areas. These staff have, for example, keys to parliamentarians' offices, don't they? That is just as a starting point.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—They have keys that will open them, yes.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Do you consider—</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I should possibly take that particular question on notice because it is possible that only the supervisors have those keys. I do not know whether every one of the 160—</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I am just using that as an example.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—It is quite an important example, though, because, apart from access to locked offices, we have at the moment—and this may be a problem in itself—a lot of people who are given access to this building without security clearances.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Yes, but most of them do not have keys to parliamentarians' and ministers' offices and the like, do they?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—That is right, and that is why I would like to check whether all PSS officers have access to those keys or whether it is only the security cleared ones.</p>	Answer received 30/1/06
P2	DPS	Bob Brown	F&PA 18, 31/10/05	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—I am interested to know whether that potential is being coordinated by a department that you are aware of. I would think that you ought to be aware of it if it is there.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I am not aware of any specific plans addressing an airborne attack on Parliament House. I am certainly not aware of any more general plans to intercept an airborne attack.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Could you find out, to the best of your ability, whether such an eventuality is being catered for. A lot of money has been spent proofing Parliament House from potential bombers or violent attack at ground level, but obviously the aerial option needs to have been addressed as well. It would be very helpful if you could find out.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I will see what I can find out but, even if I do find out, it may not be my information to give out.</p>	Answer received 30/1/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P3	DPS	Bob Brown	F&PA 21-22, 31/10/05	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—There were 326,500 plastic bags used in Parliament House last year. Is some effort being made to cut that use, recognising that most of those will end up in landfill, if not into the wider environment?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—Where is that figure from?</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—I have something called ‘Garbage bag usage in Parliament House in 2004-05’. It shows four different types of plastic banks and a total of 326,500 for last year. Half of those were kitchen tidy bags.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I am not familiar with that information. That may be the cleaners’ figures; they would certainly use most of the kitchen tidy bags. In the past, the department has used plastic bags in the parliament shop but I understand we have moved to paper ones there.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—The department wrote to me last year saying that the matter was under review.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—That was not the parliament shop?</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—No, that was the department.</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I will have to take that on notice and see if I can get you some information. Can you provide that document that you have?</p>	Answer received 30/1/06
P4	DPS	Bob Brown	F&PA 22, 31/10/05	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—Is composting built into that?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—I do not think there is a requirement for composting.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Ought not that be considered as a major way of disposing of waste other than having it go to landfill in 2005?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—We have considered in the past running our own compost heaps. I understand that that proposal has been abandoned for two reasons: one is because there all sorts of difficulties in running a compost heap, as I know from personal experience—and I gather doing it on a much larger scale has its own problems—</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Landfill just puts the difficulty over the hill, though, doesn’t it?</p> <p>Ms Penfold—Absolutely. The other reason that we have not decided to go into the composting business is that we do not actually use very much compost on the gardens because of our sandy soils and the specific composition of our soils. We would not have a great use for it. What I would prefer to is to take that on notice and give you a full brief on the options.</p>	Answer received 30/1/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
P5	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 28, 31/10/05	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Answer received 30/1/06
P6	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 30-31, 31/10/05	<p>Mr Smith—We replaced 1.3 hectares with roll-out turf. The viewing strips and the area around the outside of Parliament Drive were reseeded.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Is that included in the cost of \$108,000?</p> <p>Mr Smith—No, it is not. I do not have the cost for that in front of me.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—When you say that it is reseeded, is that over the top of the dead or dying grass?</p> <p>Mr Smith—Yes. We just put seed down like normal seed growing lawns.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—And hope that you get bit of rain—or do you keep watering that?</p> <p>Mr Smith—We water that to get it established.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—And this is considered a sensible way of going about this, is it—returfing some and reseeding the rest of it?</p> <p>Mr Smith—We make decisions based on the type of ground we have and the area. The sloped areas tend to get turfed more often than seeded because, on a sloped area, you can lose your seed load. Both side areas of the building have fairly steep slopes. Also, the outer landscape is not as high a priority for us so we choose a cheaper method of reseeding rather than turfing.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Can you take on notice the cost of dealing with the other 1.7 hectares?</p> <p>Mr Smith—Yes.</p>	Answer received 30/1/06
P7	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 31, 31/10/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—You might just let us know on notice what the schedule of works for this is and the area—the hectares—for replacement and prospective costs.</p> <p>Mr Smith—Yes.</p>	Answer received 30/1/06

<b>QON No.</b>	<b>Department / agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Hansard reference</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>P8</b>	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 36, 31/10/05	Senator FAULKNER—Has this committee got a charter or terms of reference? Ms Penfold—Yes, it does. I do not know whether they are letters patent, but there is a 1911 Gazette notice, I think, which I could certainly get for you.	Answer received 30/1/06
<b>P9</b>	DPS	Faulkner	F&PA 36, 31/10/05	Senator FAULKNER—And could you take on notice when it had its last meeting? Ms Penfold—We will take on notice as much as we can find. The papers I have seen suggest that it has never met, but we can provide those.	Answer received 30/1/06
<b>P10</b>	DPS	Murray	Written	Attached	Answer received 30/1/06
<b>P11</b>	Senate	Murray	Written	Attached	Answer received 9/12/05
<b>P12</b>	DPS	Conroy	Written	Attached	Answer received 30/1/06
<b>P13</b>	Senate	Conroy	Written	Attached	Answer received 9/12/05
<b>P14</b>	DPS	Fielding	Written	Attached	Answer received 30/1/06
<b>P15</b>	Senate	Fielding	Written	Attached	Answer received 9/12/05

Please note that answers are due on 31 January 2006

### **Written QON**

#### **P10 & P11**

#### **Order for departmental and agency contracts**

1. What guidance is provided to staff with responsibilities for contract negotiations specifically about the requirements of the Senate Order? If relevant guidance is not provided, please explain why this is the case.
2. What training and awareness sessions are provided, either in-house or through other training providers (eg. DOFA, APS Commission or private firms) in respect of the Order? Please provide a list of the dates, the identity of the training providers and the content of the training that staff attended in 2005. If training and awareness sessions are not provided, please explain why this is the case.

3. Has the department/agency revised its procurement guidelines to incorporate the new Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines that took effect from 1 January 2005, particularly with respect to the confidentiality elements contained in those guidelines? If so, when did this occur and can a copy be provided? If not, what is the cause of the delay and when will the revision occur?

4. ANAO audits for the last three years have revealed a consistently low level of compliance across most agencies with DOFA confidentiality criteria (February 2003) for determining whether commercial information should be protected as confidential. The ANAO's latest report on the Order (No.11 2005-2006, September 2005) states that departments and agencies need to give higher priority with this important requirement of the Senate Order.

- What specific measures have been or will be taken to address this problem, give it higher priority and raise compliance levels?
- What guidance and training are provided to staff about the confidentiality criteria and the four tests employed to determine whether information should be protected?
- What internal auditing or checking is performed to test compliance in this area? If none is performed, why not and is the agency considering the adoption of internal controls and checks?

5. What problems, if any, has the agency and/or relevant staff experienced in complying with the Senate Order? What is the nature and cause of any problems? What measures have been, or could be, adopted to address these concerns?

---

## **P12 & P13**

### **Performance of Information Technology outsourcing arrangements**

1. Please provide details of total departmental/organisational spending on Information and Communications Technology products and services during the last 12 months.

2. Please break down this spending by ICT function (eg communications, security, private network, websites).

3. Was this spending in line with budget forecasts for this 12 month period?

a. If not, please provide details of:

- i. The extent that ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
- ii. Details of on specific ICT contracts which resulted in department/organisation spending in excess of budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
- iii. The reasons ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period.

4. Please provide details of any ICT projects that have been commissioned by the Department/organisation during the past 12 months that have failed to meet designated project time frames (ie have failed to satisfy agreed milestones by agreed dates).

a. For such projects that were not completed on schedule, please provide details of:

- i. The extent of any delay;
- ii. The reasons these projects were not completed on time;

- iii. Any contractual remedies sought by the Department/organisation as a result of these delays (eg penalty payments).
5. Please provide details of any ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months that have materially failed to satisfy project specifications.
6. Please provide details of any ICT projects that were abandoned by the Department/organisation within the last 12 months before the delivery of all project specifications outlined at the time the project was commissioned.
- a. For such abandoned projects, please provide details of:
    - i. Any contractual remedies sought by the Department as a result of the abandonment of these projects.
    - ii. Any costs of re-tendering the ICT project.
- 

## **P14 & P15**

### **Portfolio wide questions for the Parliamentary Departments**

1. How much money has the portfolio spent on domestic airfares for each of the last three financial years?
2. How much money has the portfolio spent on overseas airfares for each of the last three financial years?
3. How much money has the portfolio spent on economy class domestic airfares for each of the last three financial years?
4. How much money has the portfolio spent on business class domestic airfares for each of the last three financial years?
5. How much has the portfolio spent on first class domestic airfares for each of the last three financial years?
6. What would be the estimated financial year dollar saving if all public servants in the portfolio travelled economy class for flights of less than one and a half hours duration?