



31 October 2005

Senator Brett Mason
Chair
Finance and Public Administration
Legislation Committee
Committee Room 2S1



Dear Senator Mason

Estimates hearing 31 October 2005 – Response to Question

During the estimates hearing earlier this day, I took a question on notice from Senator Trood relating to the memory configuration of computing equipment supplied in Parliament House offices. I provide the following response.

The question was specifically related to an industry standard for memory configuration. I am not aware of any specific industry standard for memory configuration, however, there are some pseudo standards within the IT industry that cover different industries such as desktop publishers, gamers, developers and general office users, but not a one size fits all standard.

The equipment purchased for use in Parliament House reflects a balance between cost and performance. The performance component of the assessment is primarily based on:

- Minimum specifications from Microsoft for using Windows XP (as at 31/10/2005, still set at 128MB)
- Testing of the equipment against the Standard Operating Environment (SOE) software build for both the OneOffice and MobileOffice platforms.

The fleet of equipment used in Senators suites is a combination of the following:

Brand/Model	Type	RAM (megabytes)	Hard disk size (gigabytes)	Age (years)
HP D530	Desktop	512 ¹	40	> 2
Acer Veriton 3700	Desktop	512 ²	80	< 1
Toshiba Portege 4010	Laptop	256 ³	30	> 3

I believe that the desktop equipment supplied is more than capable of meeting the needs of the majority of users within the Senate.

The laptops however, have reached the end of their useful life and are to be replaced within the next few weeks.

If Senator Trood is experiencing performance issues with the current desktop equipment I can arrange for an officer from the Senate Information Technology section to visit him to discuss a suitable solution.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Griffiths
Usher of the Black Rod

¹ RAM clock speed of 400 Megahertz

² RAM clock speed of 533 Megahertz

³ RAM clock speed of 133 Megahertz