

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2006

Question: F37

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Networking of Electorate Office Photocopiers

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Senator Ray asked:

In relation to the networking of the electorate office photocopiers, I think you are networking the photocopiers to the computers. You have done a trial period. Could I be informed which electorate offices were used in the trial period. While you are looking that up, I will ask two more questions that we can get the answers to later. I would like to know who would determine the priority of the progressive connection of all electorate offices to the IT network. Could we be provided with a list of who has been connected so far and the details of what the costs are anticipated to be?

Answer:

The following Senators and Members participated in the networking of electorate office photocopiers trial conducted from 31 October 2005 to 15 January 2006:

- The Hon Bob Baldwin MP, Member for Paterson;
- The Hon Julie Bishop MP, Member for Curtin;
- Ms Anna Burke MP, Member for Chisholm;
- The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Member for Dickson;
- Mr Michael Hatton MP; Member for Blaxland;
- The Hon Bob Katter MP, Member for Kennedy;
- Mr Peter Lindsay MP, Member for Herbert;
- Senator Julian McGauran, Senator for Victoria;
- Mrs Sophie Mirabella MP, Member for Indi;
- Senator Stephen Parry, Senator for Tasmania;
- Senator Ursula Stephens, Senator for New South Wales;
- Mr Ken Ticehurst MP, Member for Dobell; and
- Mr Kim Wilkie MP, Member for Swan.

The Department of Finance and Administration (Finance) has sought to incorporate the establishment of electorate office networked printers with the roll-out of the NAS Device replacement programme. These two projects were aligned so as to minimise the disruption to electorate offices and the cost to Finance. Therefore, no further photocopiers, apart from those involved in the trial, have been established as networked units to date.

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Since August 2005, Finance has been purchasing photocopiers that include networking hardware, so that the cost of retro fitting network kits is avoided. All 79 existing networkable machines will be networked as part of the roll-out of the NAS Device replacement programme. The contractor doing the work will determine the sequence based on electorate office location in order to minimise the time involved, travel and hence the cost.

The cost of connecting the photocopiers to the network is not significant and is not able to be separately identified from the NAS Device replacement programme. Each of the remaining 160 machines will be networked when the current (non-networkable) machine is replaced at the end of its serviceable life over approximately the next three years.