



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



- 9 NOV 2006

Senator Mitch Fifield
Chairman
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Fifield

During the estimates hearings for the Department of the Senate on 30 October 2006, information was sought about the Christmas cards I sent out last year as President.

I am advised that the cost of printing the cards in 2005 was \$3,307.85.

I sent out 850 cards, of which 160 were for personal friends and constituents. The remaining 690 were sent to official recipients including Presiding Officer colleagues from Australia and abroad, Ambassadors and High Commissioners and others in official positions.

I understand it has been long practice for the Senate Department to provide this support to the President of the day. I understand it has also been long practice that Departments of State provide similar assistance to Ministers.

Yours sincerely

(Paul Calvert)