

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2006

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

#### Topic: Tabling of DPS Annual Report 2005-06

#### Question P5

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to each agency (and the department itself) that falls inside the department's portfolio, could the department indicate:

- 1 What date the agency's 2005-06 annual report was tabled before parliament?
- 2 If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate:
  - (a) when the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by;
  - (b) whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide:
    - (i) a description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation; and
    - (ii) an explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe?
  - (c) whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*? If so, could the department provide:
    - (i) the date for finalising the report as set out in the extension;
    - (ii) the reason given for granting the extension;
    - (iii) the date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted; and
    - (iv) a copy of the Minister's statement.
  - (d) where the agency's legislation does not provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question (b)), nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question (c)), could the department provide:
    - (i) an explanation for why the annual report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision

alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation, nor there being any formal extension granted.

3 Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling of the agency's annual report.

**Answer**

1 The Department of Parliamentary Services Annual Report 2005-06 was tabled in the House of Representatives on 31 October 2006. It was presented out of sitting to the President of the Senate on 30 October 2006, and was accordingly tabled in the Senate on the next sitting day, 6 November 2006, pursuant to Senate Standing Order 166.

2 See answer to Question 1.

3 There are no other arrangements in place for the tabling of the department's annual report.