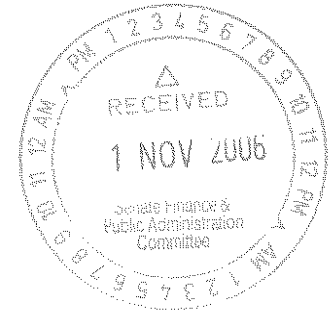




31 October 2006

Mr Alistair Sands
Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Sands

**ESTIMATES HEARING, 30 OCTOBER 2006 – DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The following additional information is provided consequent on the hearing of the committee yesterday.

Transfer of printing entitlements

Senator Ray asked for figures on the financial savings to the department following the transfer of the administration of senators' printing entitlements from the Department of the Senate to the Department of Finance and Administration (transcript p. 12).

Christmas cards for senators will continue to be paid for out of the special appropriation, with the exception of cards for the President and Deputy-President, which will be paid for out of departmental funds. The costs for the latter in 2005-06 was \$4,745.

Departmental and administered costs that will no longer be incurred directly by either the Department of the Senate or more broadly by the Commonwealth are reflected in the following figures, based on financial year 2005-06 costs:

	Senate Department costs no longer incurred
APS 4 Printer Operator	\$ 68,000
	Administered Commonwealth costs no longer incurred
Freight	\$ 49,000

The department will be able to decommission a two-colour press, and replace it with a colour photocopier. The full annual cost of the current press (including depreciation, maintenance and consumables) is approximately \$109,000. The annual full cost of the colour photocopier

will be less than this figure, but at this stage it is too early to quantify what those savings would be.

Biographical Dictionary

I indicated (transcript pp 18-19) that Volume 3 of the Biographical Dictionary would be available early next year. I should have said early next financial year, that is, in the second half of calendar 2007.

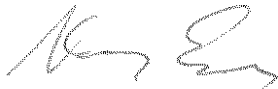
Annual Report

Ms Griffiths indicated (transcript p. 10) that she had received information of a delay in printing of the additional copies of the annual report. The copies were in fact delivered yesterday, and there was no delay on the specified delivery date.

Press cuttings

Reference was made (transcript pp 13-14) to the delay by Media Monitors in producing the electronic copy of the press cuttings on 18 October 2006. Media Monitors has agreed not to charge the department for that day's clippings.

Yours sincerely



(Harry Evans)