

**Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Commonwealth Ombudsman Office**

Estimates 2006-07 — Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2006

**Question: PM 62 - 69**

**Topic: Preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs**

**The Committee asked:**

With regard to the preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs or other such documents intended to brief Ministers on an issue specifically for Question Time, could the department/agency provide:

1. The number of such briefs prepared in each of the last three financial years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06).
2. The number of staff who are responsible for coordinating such briefs and the salary level they are engaged at.
3. The name of internal unit/team that those staff belong to and a description of its other responsibilities.
4. The total budget associated with the unit/team referred to in response to part 3.

**Answer:**

The Commonwealth Ombudsman Office is an independent oversight body and, unlike other government departments and agencies, does not generally undertake this type of advising role. While the Prime Minister is the office's portfolio minister and it is possible that briefings may be required for him in relation to some issue about the office, this would be a departure from standard practice by which the Ombudsman himself responds to issues and questions about the office.

1. 2003-04 – Nil; 2004-05 – Nil; 2005-06 - Nil
2. Not applicable
3. Not applicable
4. Not applicable