

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2008**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**



**Outcome 3, Output 3.1**

**Topic: Caucus Committees Support and Training Unit (CCSTU)**

**Question reference number: F43a-F43f**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2008**

**Number of Pages: 2**

**Senator Fifield asked:**

- (a) Does the CCSTU assist in any way with the preparation of a roster for Labor Members and Senators to provide interviews at the doors of Parliament House?
- (b) Does the CCSTU assist in any way with the preparation of speech notes / media briefings or talking points for Labor Members and Senators?
- (c) Does the CCSTU assist Labor Members and Senators to arrange Labor Party social functions that produce surplus funds, including but not limited to the coordination of the attendance of Labor Ministers and the booking of venues (such as function spaces within Parliament House for budget night) and the posting of invitations? Please give details of all instances in which CCSTU has been involved in such arrangements?
- (d) Can you confirm that the CCSTU prepares regular "CCSTU Daily Bulletins" that are emailed to Labor Members and Senators?
- (e) What is contained in the CCSTU Daily Bulletins?
- (f) Consistent with the Government's and Minister Faulkner's often stated commitment to openness and transparency, please provide copies of all CCSTU Daily Bulletins prepared and emailed by the CCSTU since its formation.

**Answer:**

(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The CCSTU has organised one such event on behalf of the Federal Parliamentary Labor party, being the farewell dinner for the former Senator the Hon Robert Ray. Details of the CCSTU's involvement in the organisation of that event are set out in the answer provided in response to question No. 752.

(d) Yes.

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(e) The CCSTU daily bulletin contains information for Senators and Members concerning matters of interest to the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, including but not limited to:

1. times and details of caucus committee meetings, and informational seminars;
2. fact sheets detailing Government initiatives;
3. notification of network outages in electoral offices;
4. details of changes to the location of electoral offices, postal addresses and staffing arrangements; and
5. details of proposed sitting hours and legislative programmes.

(f) CCSTU Daily Bulletins are internal working documents of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and are not distributed beyond the party. Accordingly, they are not available for release.