

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee— Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2008

## Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

### Answers to Questions on Notice

**Topic: Apology manuscript.**

#### Questions P19a-P19c, Written questions on notice

##### **P19a—DPS (SIEWERT)**

Why is the apology manuscript not on public display in the Parliament?

##### **P19b—DPS (SIEWERT)**

How many requests have parliamentary information or tour staff had to view the apology manuscript?

##### **P19c—DPS (SIEWERT)**

Are there any plans to move the apology manuscript from the private area in the Mural Hall into a public area?

If so, when will this occur?

#### **Answer**

##### **P19a**

1 DPS was originally asked at very short notice to find a place to display the Apology manuscript where it could be unveiled by the Prime Minister at an event on Sorry Day (26 May 2008). The only suitable space that could accommodate this display, as well as being available for booking for the event at short notice, was the Mural Hall. At the time, DPS also undertook to investigate other options for longer term display, so that the Apology manuscript could be exhibited with the glass coolamon (gifted on the day of the Apology) in an appropriate public area of the building. DPS subsequently proposed establishment of a display in the Members' Hall (public access) which was approved in August 2008.

##### **P19b**

2 DPS has not kept a record of the exact number of visitor requests to view the manuscript. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that requests are made approximately once or twice per week.

##### **P19c**

3 DPS has identified an appropriate public area of the building to display the manuscript and the glass coolamon (gifted on the day of the apology) and this has been approved by the Presiding Officers. The new display will be on the first



floor of the Members' Hall and arrangements for the relocation to this area are being finalised. The new display is expected to be in place by late November 2008 (subject to timely delivery of work by external contractors).

