

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2009

**Question: PM14a-c**

**Topic: Teleconferencing rooms**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009**

**Number of pages: 1**

**See Phillip Hudson, 'High-tech crisis room to be near PM's office', Sydney Morning Herald, 1 October 2009, p.4**

- a) Where will the 20 teleconferencing rooms across the nation be built (which cities and also which locations within these cities)?**
- b) When will these 20 teleconferencing rooms be completed?**
- c) How much will the 20 teleconferencing rooms cost?**

**Answer:**

a) Two videoconference rooms will be installed in each capital city in Australia, other than Canberra: one in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Office and one in the First Minister's department of the respective state or territory government.

In Canberra, videoconference facilities will be installed in two rooms in Parliament House with additional sites at the ACT Chief Minister's Department and the Departments of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Finance and Deregulation.

b) The current schedule has all rooms completed by the end of June 2010.

c) As indicated in the 2008-09 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (page 160), the Australian Government is providing \$13.8 million over four years for the project, encompassing the capital cost of the equipment, room remediation and operational costs. The Commonwealth will be recouping \$4.6 million of the cost of the project from the states and territories.