Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2011

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Parliaments' management of IT**

Question: **20**

Hansard reference **F&PA p. 37, 17 October 2011**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

CHAIR: I would like to ask a follow-up question. The issue of IT, since I have been on this committee for some six years, comes up at every estimates. Has there been any thought or planning for the future, an investigation, as to how other parliaments around the world deal with IT and the emerging technology issue?

Mr Thompson: Yes, we have looked at some other models. The submission we made to the inquiry into DPS performance does list some of those. They range from the one we mentioned before about the Washington model, where there is a separate service for the Senate and the senators' staff and there is a separate one for the House of Reps. Another interesting one is the PICT model for the Palace of Westminster which is a single service to provide the service to all House of Commons and Lords members. So other models are available. I do not think today is the day to canvass those possible models.

CHAIR: Could you take it on notice to provide us with some further information?

Mr Thompson: We could provide an extract out of that submission.

Answer

1   Please refer to the Department of Parliamentary Services, Submission no. 3, to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee inquiry into the performance of the Department of Parliamentary Services, pp. 24–25.

2   The full submission is available at:

https://senate.aph.gov.au/submissions/comittees/viewdocument.aspx?id=167bfd14-4a84-4bdb-8b98-17f54db2a08f