

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES –17-18 OCTOBER 2011

PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1	Senate	Faulkner/ Fifield	12 th edition of <i>Odgers' Australian Senate Practice</i>	<p>Senator FAULKNER: On that question, Dr Laing, can you tell me how many people have read the previous 12 editions?</p> <p>Dr Laing: Senator Faulkner, I could get you the numbers of copies of the 12th edition that we have either sold or distributed free of charge. Of course, it is on the internet and we would have internet statistics on hits. What they would tell you I really do not know. But we can get that for you if you would like.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD: Why not, Dr Laing?</p> <p>Dr Laing: Certainly.</p>	p. 3 17/10/2011	18/10/11	10/11/11
2	Senate	Bernardi	Software applications available on MPs' computers	<p>Senator BERNARDI: I will address this to you, Dr Laing. I am not sure if it fits into this space. I contacted IT Services, 2020, the other day about installing some video editing software and I was advised that it was not available for installation in senators' Parliament House offices. It was available for installation in their electorate offices. With further inquiry I was told that it is available for members of the House of Representatives in their Parliament House offices. It struck me as unusual that senators are not eligible to access the same software as those in the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Mr Hallett: Perhaps I can help. I am sort of aware of the issue you raise and we are following it up at the moment. As far as I understand, there is no distinction between what members and senators can do. The entitlements are the same for members and senators. There have been some issues recently about tightening up what any of us can load onto machines due to IT security concerns. Could I please take your particular issue on notice because I probably have to talk to DPS, who run the parliamentary computing network?</p>	p. 6 17/10/2011	18/10/11	10/11/11
3	Senate	Parry	Costs associated with the Law Enforcement Parliamentary Joint Committee/ Australian Commissione	<p>Senator PARRY: I received it this morning. Could I go to the second page of the list of committees. The third, fourth and fifth items are Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—it is repeated three times. There must be a logical explanation, but I gather it is to do with the Australian Crime Commission becoming the law enforcement commission. That would be one reason. I just want to know what the three lines are. I could understand there being two. There is obviously an explanation that I just cannot fathom.</p> <p>Dr Laing: I will see if I can get you an explanation.</p> <p>Senator PARRY: I am happy for you to take that on notice if it is something simple.</p> <p>Dr Laing: We think it is probably something to do with our accounting system that has not</p>	p. 8 17/10/2011	18/10/11	10/11/11

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			r for Law Enforcement Integrity	amalgamated those figures, but we will take it away and check it for you. I expect that those figures in the three entries should be totalled.			
4	(DPS) Response provided by the Senate	Polley	Parliament House office furniture style guide	<p>CHAIR: Has there been any consultation with you in relation to the layout of the fit-out and, to your knowledge, was there any consultation with senators or staff on the design?</p> <p>Mr Kenny: I do not know what consultation but I think that from that point of view it was the Department of the Senate, who were basically running the project. They would have done whatever consultation was done rather than our people. Our people would get involved physically when it was time to lift and carry and get the drills out. There was a Parliament House style guide prepared, again under the leadership of the Senate department, but we had people involved in the preparation of that style guide.</p> <p>CHAIR: Would you be able to provide to the committee a copy of that style guide?</p>	p. 34 17/10/2011	18/10/11	10/11/11
5	Senate	Cameron	Printing of the report by the Senate Select Committee on the Scrutiny of New Taxes	<p>1. On what date was the report of the Senate Select Committee on the Scrutiny of New Taxes, "The Mining Tax: a bad tax out of a flawed process" printed?</p> <p>2. Was any overtime worked in the process of printing the report? If so, what was the cost of the overtime worked?</p> <p>3. Prior to the tabling of the report on 29th June 2011, were any copies of the printed report shipped to Perth? If so, who requested that the copies be shipped to Perth, by what means were they shipped to Perth, how many copies were shipped and what was the cost of the shipping?</p>	Written	27/10/11	10/11/11
6	DPS Program 2.1	Ronaldson	New CCTV system	<p>Senator RONALDSON: We now have a new digital security camera system, is that right?</p> <p>Ms Graham: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: When was that installed?</p> <p>Ms Graham: It is currently in the process of final commissioning. I believe the project is just wrapping up to a formal close. I think we took over the system about October last year, but I would like to check that date.</p>	p. 17 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12
7	DPS Program 2.1	Ronaldson	New CCTV system	<p>Senator RONALDSON: On 4 October two of the 15 servers failed due to a service schedule change. Are you aware that footage was lost and security cameras were unusable?</p> <p>Ms Graham: I was aware that we did have an issue as part of the patch process, where we did lose some footage, but I cannot recall the exact details. I would not be able to comment any further. If you would like me to get some information, I can do that on notice.</p>	p. 20 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12
8	DPS Program 2.1	Parry	New CCTV system	<p>Senator PARRY: Let us take it one step at a time. I understand there is a lag—is that correct? There is a lag between real time and the image appearing on the screen—up to 10 seconds.</p> <p>Mr Kenny: That is not my understanding.</p> <p>Senator PARRY: Can someone conduct a test and see whether that is correct? It should be fairly simple.</p>	pp 22-23	02/12/11	09/02/12

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				Mr Kenny: We will do some testing and take that on notice.			
9	DPS Program 2.1	Parry	Security passes on issue	Senator PARRY: ... I have the usual questions about the number of security passes that have been issued, the breakdown of the classification of staff and access points. I think that has been provided for in that format. Could that be provided on notice? Mr Thompson: We can do that, yes.	p. 28 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12
10	DPS Program 2.1	Ronaldson	New CCTV system	Does the security system go slowly or is it unstable when Microsoft patch updates are occurring?	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12
11	DPS Program 2.1	Ronaldson	New CCTV system	On 29 August 2011 did an outage of the parliament house computer network cause parliament house security to lose access to 50% of the footage from its security cameras, as well as the loss of two way radio and telephone communications?	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12
12	DPS Program 2.1	Ronaldson	New CCTV system	If a security camera operator took a screen capture picture of their screen could they potentially email images from parliament house security to any member of the public?	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12
13	DPS Program 2.1	Ronaldson	CCTV cameras	Have there been any complaints that security cameras not designed for night usage have been installed in certain locations around parliament and that this has resulted in security footage in many places around parliament house becoming difficult to view after dark?	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12
14	DPS Program 2.1	Ronaldson	CCTV cameras	a) Do security officers know which camera is filming the image they are viewing due to a text overlay, which displays the camera location? b) Have there been any difficulties with the text overlays? c) Have recent changes to the text overlay meant that if a security officer is viewing footage of nine or more cameras on the one monitor he or she actually cannot read the overlay which shows the location of each camera?	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12
15	DPS Program 2.1	Ronaldson	CCTV cameras	a) How long is the average shift of a security camera operator? b) Has DPS received any advice that it is a rarity for a security camera operator to go through a shift without requiring to reboot their work station?	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12
16	DPS Program 2.1	Ronaldson	PSS shift arrangements	a) Are parliament house security guards paid based on the hours there work? b) Is there a system which monitors the security guards hours? c) Does this system require security guards to clock on and off? d) If a security guard forgets to clock on or off but still works a full day, do they get paid? Has this happened where a security guard has worked a whole day and not been paid? e) If there is a malfunction in the system, does the security guard still get paid?	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12
17	DPS Program 2.2	Ryan	Health and Recreation Centre	Senator RYAN: I have a couple of quick questions on facilities. I understand that a lot of staff in the building, as part of the collective agreement, have access to the fitness centre. Mr Thompson: Yes, they do. Senator RYAN: Can you provide me, on notice, with the number of people who have	p. 30 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12

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				effectively no-charge access to the fitness centre?			
18	DPS Program 2.2	Ryan	Health and Recreation Centre	<p>Senator RYAN: I would ask you to take on notice, if there are arrangements outside DPS, the costs that are reimbursed to you to cover that.</p> <p>Mr Kenny: Sorry, Senator; what was that question?</p> <p>Senator RYAN: If there are departments other than DPS, whether it be chamber or department of finance, that as part of their collective agreements have similar arrangements to you—that is, no-charge access for staff members—what reimbursement do you receive for that?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Kenny: Can I make a quick correction to Senator Ryan. My comment earlier about gym membership, I have just checked and the annual report actually only goes down to other building occupants in total. So we will provide you on notice with the detail of how many are our people and how many are other departments.</p>	pp 31-32 and 34 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12
19	DPS Program 3.2	Humphries	Passwords on BlackBerrys	<p>Senator HUMPHRIES: As I read the information security manual, it is the Department of Parliamentary Services which is responsible for setting the policy on how often passwords need to be renewed. If that is the case, and it is not the Department of Finance, then I am anxious to settle this. At the last set of estimates I asked the question of the department and you answered the question rather than said it was a matter for Finance. You said, 'It is the policy set by DFD'. I went to DFD and they said it was the Department of Parliamentary Services. I am not anxious to be flick-passed again on this matter. Do you have responsibility for determining what the policy is with these password issues?</p> <p>Mr Kenny: Historically, and again this is by way of background, when the BlackBerries were first provided Finance gave us fairly non-negotiable directions as to what had to be set and we did not argue with that. We had some discussions as to whether there were better options but we took the role that it was their decision. What you have just said suggests that we did not question the authority enough and possibly now we should. I am quite happy to undertake to do so.</p> <p>Senator HUMPHRIES: While you are doing that checking I have got to forego another set of estimates before I can get the answer to my question. This is the third set of estimates I have brought them to.</p> <p>Mr Kenny: I can have an answer well before next February.</p>	p. 35 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12
20	DPS Program 3.2	Polley	Other parliaments' management of IT	<p>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?</p>	p. 37 17/17/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12

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				<p>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.</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you take it on notice to provide us with some further information?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: We could provide an extract out of that submission.</p>			
21	DPS Program 3.2	Ryan	BlackBerrys	<p>Senator RYAN: ...Since the new BlackBerrys came in—and I do not know what they are called, but they are the ones with the big touch screen and without the trackball—have you noticed any change in the number of queries, complaints or requirements for assistance? I am not sure how many have been rolled out yet.</p> <p>Ms Hanley: Nothing has been drawn to my attention to say there is a particular problem here in relation to these new BlackBerrys. But, having said that, we can look into it and see if there is.</p>	p. 37 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12
22	DPS Program 3.2	Ryan	Passwords on iPads	<p>Senator RYAN: We will chase that up again tomorrow. There was a problem a while ago—I think I was the first senator to have my iPad hooked up, because I happened to be in the building the day it happened—when the 90-day password rule on our laptops for the PCN caused a problem with Apple and, I presume, with iPhones; I know it caused a problem with all the iPads. Has that been sorted out? I know a lot of senators were locked out of the system, because the Apple device kept trying to get in with an old password, which triggered the security shutdown. Has that been resolved?</p> <p>Ms Hanley: I know it has been worked on; I cannot confirm whether or not it has been resolved yet, but we can take that on notice.</p>	p. 37 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12
23	DPS Program 5	Parry	New CCTV system	<p>Senator PARRY: Have any costings been done to make it a stand-alone system using its own unique structure, not connected to the PCN? If yes, could you give me the answer; if no, could you take it on notice?</p>	p.22 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12
24	DPS Program 5	Ronaldson	Utilities controls on PCN	<p>a) Are there plans to put control of lighting and air conditioning on the parliamentary computer network?</p> <p>b) Would this not mean that a computer hacker could potentially not only shut down all the parliament house security cameras, but they could also turn off the lights and the air conditioning?</p>	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12

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				c) Could a computer crash caused by a virus or multiple server outages also result in parliament house security and lighting failing, if this happens?			
25	DPS Program 5	Ryan	Parliament House— Security Wall	<p>1) I note contract CN432004 for the provision of a security wall at the Parliament House public car park, costs \$6,357,717.30.</p> <p>2) What benefit will the construction of this wall achieve? Will it increase the level of security for the building? Is the purpose of building the wall specifically to increase the level of security from the public car park?</p> <p>3) How long is the construction expected to take? Are there any similar upgrades planned for other areas of Parliament House?</p> <p>4) This cost seems rather large for a security wall, how is the Department making sure that there is not a blow out in costs?</p> <p>5) Which Departmental budget is this cost being taken out of? Will DPS be seeking extra funding in the next financial year as a result of this project?</p>	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12
26	DPS Program 5	Ryan	Parliament House—Solar Panels	<p>In May 2011, Senator Fifield asked a number of questions about the construction of solar panels at Parliament House. The Department stated in its answer that the savings in electricity costs would be \$10,000 in the first year and “potentially” \$17,000 per year in the first five years.</p> <p>1) Given the cost of construction for these solar panels was \$187,870.00 under contract CN381271, how many years do you anticipate it will take to cover this cost from savings in electricity costs?</p> <p>2) Can you confirm whether the following contracts also relate to the solar panels at Parliament House:</p> <p>a) CN404492 dated 5 July for \$18,787?</p> <p>b) CN428178 dated 9 September for \$10,010?</p> <p>3) CN428178 was for work completed between August and September, yet the answers to QON from the last estimates stated that “no contractor costs beyond the construction stage are anticipated”.</p> <p>4) What further costs do you anticipate?</p> <p>5) Do you still believe that there will be no contractor costs beyond the construction stage?</p> <p>6) What is the total cost of construction for the solar panels on Parliament House?</p> <p>7) How long are these solar panels set to last?</p> <p>8) What will the savings in energy costs be over the lifetime of the panels?</p>	Written	02/12/11	09/02/12
27	DPS Corporate Services	Faulkner		<p>Dr Heriot: Yes, and that is Mr Long. Sorry, I did not mean to create confusion.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER: No, I am just trying to understand what is happening. Who would he be?</p> <p>Dr Heriot: He is an experienced investigator. I do not have his CV at the table but I can</p>	p. 14 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12

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				certainly get it in the break. He has previously worked for the New South Wales police and has worked in the Australian Public Service for a number of years. He has done quite a number of investigations.			
28	DPS Corporate Services	Faulkner	Overseas travel	<p>Senator FAULKNER: The one thing I was interested in was understanding whether the department had a budget for the overseas travel of staff members.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Each year we establish a budget for overseas travel. I do not have exactly what it is for 2011-12 at my fingertips now.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER: What was it in 2010-11?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Again, I do not have it at my fingertips. We can provide it at quite short notice, but I do not have it.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER: Could I ask, then, about the prospective budget for this financial year and for the two or three previous years. Could I also be provided with details of all overseas travel expenditure funded out of the DPS staff travel budget, please? I have asked that question on notice.</p>	p. 28 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12
29	DPS Corporate Services	Faulkner	Billiard tables	<p>Senator FAULKNER: That is fine. I am asking whether there were any removal expenses to go to the auction house, for example.</p> <p>Mr Kenny: I imagine that there would have been. We will try and get that number for you.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER: This is what is so difficult to cope with: you imagine. I am not interested in your imagination; I just want the facts.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER: I am trying to find out other costs. So far that sale, for \$5,000 benefit, has been a \$102,500 cost to the Australian taxpayer—plus other minor costs we do not know about. I want the whole lot, Mr Thompson. Everything: every cost borne by the Department of Parliamentary Services in relation to the debacle which was the sale of these billiard tables. So far it is \$102,500 going north. As soon as possible I really believe we ought to be provided with those figures, and it is disappointing you are not able to provide them today. Obviously it includes removal expenses if there are any, obviously it includes storage fees if there are any and obviously it includes auction house fees if there are any—and I gather there are figures in those three categories, given Mr Kenny's unsatisfactory evidence. If any other costs borne by DPS could be provided as soon as possible, I would appreciate it.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I will provide that.</p>	p. 29 and 30 17/10/2011	18/10/11	10/11/11
30	DPS Corporate Services	Moore	Comcare survey	<p>Senator MOORE: I am still trying to find out whether, before the survey started, there was a meeting engaging the management team, or whoever, from your area and Comcare to have a general discussion about your views about how things were going, what you were hoping to get to, any kinds of comments you would have—whether there was a benchmark or some discussion at the start before the survey that could then be useful at the end of the survey</p>	p. 32 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12

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				<p>when you got your feedback. Did that happen?</p> <p>Ms Sheppard: I understand there was discussion with the HR services team and Comcare, but, to my knowledge, not directly with management and Comcare.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Is there anyone from the HR services team that can tell me whether that did happen?</p> <p>Ms Sheppard: We will have to find out and get back to you, if that is okay.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Okay.</p>			
31	DPS Corporate Services	Parry	Confidential counselling for staff	<p>Senator PARRY: I will ask the department to take this on notice. It might be more effective. Is there confidential counselling available for all DPS employees? If so, how is it accessed and through whom? Is it available 24/7? I presume it would be at no cost. Could those details could be provided? Also, could we have a breakdown of the number of referrals to any counselling service and from what areas the referrals were being made? Obviously, keep confidentiality, but can that be broken down into Security, Hansard et cetera? If there are different areas, could you break that down?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes, we can. I would just have to caution on the last one, because for some groups it might end up being a small number, and that might intrude on confidentiality.</p> <p>Senator PARRY: If it breaches that, I do not want the answer.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: But the service is definitely there, and it is used.</p>	p. 32 17/10/2011	02/12/11	09/02/12