

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
OFFICE OF PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL

Question No. 230

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

Regarding the OPC deficit of \$268,576 mentioned on page 7 of the annual report:

- a) What projects and sectors overran in 2004-05?
- b) What measures were taken to address this problem in 2005-06?
- c) Has anything been cut for 05-06?
 - i) If so, what?
- d) Does it include any staffing numbers?
- e) Is expenditure currently on budget?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) The overrun occurred as the cost of OPC's employee expenses had risen over a number of years to a point where OPC's expenses exceeded its appropriation. This was mainly in employee expenses for drafters.
- b) OPC sought, and obtained, increased funding in 2005-06 and future years to address the shortfall.
- c) There have been no "cuts", although OPC is of course maintaining a close watch on all expenditure.
- d) It is expected that staffing numbers will be slightly higher in 2005-06 than in 2004-05, although this is dependent on OPC being able to fill a number of drafting positions.
- e) It is currently expected that OPC will have a surplus in 2005-06.