## **Estimates Committee 2009 Questions Taken On Notice**

( 16/6/2009 to 19/6/2009 )

Date: 16/06/2009 Output: 1.0 Parliamentary

Services

Sub Output: 1.2 Members &

Client Services

Subject: Port Darwin Electorate Office

**From:**Mr John Elferink to Speaker Jane Aagaard Department of the Legislative Assembly

## 1-5

## **Question:**

The question is: in relation to the partition in the member's office itself, who paid for the changes; was it approved by Madam Speaker herself; what was the cost of that work, including cabling for the computers; and, was there any extra furniture allocation as a result of that?

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Mr ELFERINK: Madam Speaker, are your staff aware of the particular piece of work I am referring to, the particular project? And, if so, when was that work done?

Madam SPEAKER: I will pass over to Ms Vicki Long.

Ms LONG: I am aware of that particular work. The actual date I would need to check on.

Mr ELFERINK: Roughly, can you guesstimate?

Ms LONG: It was for the previous member for Port Darwin sometime in her term. However, I could not give an exact date. We have that on notice already.

...

Mr ELFERINK: Will your department table all associated paperwork including the rationale – the reasons given - for the creation of this extra office in the former member for Port Darwin's office?

Madam SPEAKER: I do not think that there is very much paperwork on this, but I am also being advised that it was a partition and not the creation of an extra office.

Mr ELFERINK: Well, it looked like an office, it smelt like an office, it has desks. Whilst the partition was created it also had, when I got there, a computer screen in it - not an actual computer but a computer screen – so it looked all the world like an office. There is a strong suggestion that it was an office because some paperwork was also left stuck up on walls which indicated that it was used for political purposes.

Whilst I appreciate that a member of the ALP will use their office for

political purposes from time to time - that is what local members do - I am just curious to know why this extra office existed; who was paying for the extra staff member who was in that office either full-time or part-time; who that staff member was; and by what justification was it created?

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Port Darwin, I do not know anything about this topic.

Mr ELFERINK: Can you then table the paperwork leading up to the ...

Madam SPEAKER: I can find out about the details to deal with the partitioning of the office, which is all the information I would have.

Mr ELFERINK: Are you able to table the paperwork that the former member for Port Darwin would have had to fill out justifying the expenditure for the minor new work?

Madam SPEAKER: If such an item exists, we will table that.

## **Answer:**

Answered On: 16/06/2009

Answer: The Speaker approved the works in the Port Darwin office along with a list

of works for other electorate offices as part of the 2007-08 MNW

allocation.

The Department of Legislative Assembly paid for a partition to be installed in the former Member for Port Darwin's office in order to create extra storage space. It was not an extra office. The cost was \$2,447.00. Computer cabling was not part of those works as no computers were being installed. There was no additional furniture allocation as a result of the works in the office as it was a storage area.