

10 September 2018

Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile MLC  
Chair  
Portfolio Committee No. 1  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Chair,

*Fred,*

I refer to the public hearing for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for the Legislature on Thursday 6th September 2018.

In the session there was a line of questioning from Mr Moselmane related to the room booking costs for events held after-hours at the Parliament. In my answer to that question, I referred to figures provided to me by the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) relating to the costs charged for booking a room. In my answer, I referenced a general booking fee of \$500 per hour, a Member rate of \$350 per hour, and that the costs associated with opening the Parliament ran at approximately \$500 per hour.

It was brought to my attention today that, while the substance of my answer remains correct, the figures I used to underpin my answer were not accurate. DPS now advises that the correct figures are a general fee of \$700 per hour for most rooms, a Member rate of \$500 per hour and the costs associated with opening the Parliament after-hours running at approximately \$600 per hour.

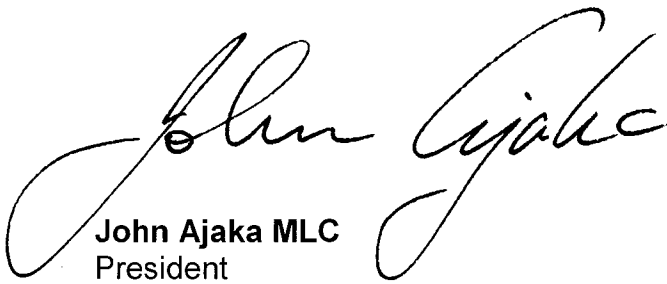
While these updated figures do not change the substance of my argument, namely that the Parliament loses money on single member-hosted event evenings and makes up that loss when there is more than one event occurring, I wish to ensure that I always provide accurate information in the Estimates process.

I wish to bring the correct figures to the attention of the committee immediately along with my assurances that in referring to the incorrect figures, I was relying on information that I sincerely believed to be correct at the time.

DPS has offered me their deepest apologies for providing inaccurate figures, and have asked me to pass on those apologies to all members of the Committee as well.

I thank you all for your attention and questions last week. I have asked Mr Mark Webb, Chief Executive of DPS, to make himself available to any committee member if you wish to discuss this matter in more detail and I, of course, am available to discuss at any time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Ajaka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Ajaka" clearly distinguishable.

**John Ajaka MLC**  
President