

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of the Senate

Budget Estimates

26-30 May 2014

Question: 6
Topic: "Truest Patriotism" conference
Written: 5 June 2014

Senator BERNARDI asked:

In November 2013 a free conference was held at Parliament House: 'The Truest Patriotism: Andrew Inglis Clark and the Building of an Australian Nation'.

Speakers included the Senate Clerk, Dr David Headon (history and heritage adviser for the Centenary of Canberra); Reverend Professor Michael Tate AO; Professor Henry Reynolds; the Hon John Bannon AO etc.

1. Who initiated the conference?
2. What was the cost of holding the conference?
3. Who decided on the programme, including the speakers, for the conference?
4. Were the speakers paid?
5. Did the Senate meet any of the costs for the speakers (e.g. travel)?
6. How many people attended?
7. The Senate website indicates that a special edition of *Papers on Parliament* will be published in 2014; are those papers available?

Answer:

1. The idea for the conference on the Tasmanian, Andrew Inglis Clark, was developed as a Centenary of Canberra event in discussions between the Clerk and Dr Headon, history and heritage adviser for the Centenary of Canberra, following a lecture given by Dr Headon at the National Museum of Australia in March 2012.

It was one of three centenary events supported by the Department of the Senate, the other two being:

- an Occasional Lecture on 15 February 2013 by Dr Headon ("But once in history": Canberra's foundation stones and naming ceremonies, 12 March 2013) which coincided with an exhibition of the same name in The Presiding Officers' Exhibition Area, Parliament House; and
- an Occasional Lecture on 15 November 2013 by Robyn Archer AO, Creative Director of the Centenary of Canberra ("Re-imagining the Capital").

The conference was part of a key Centenary of Canberra program, *Big Issues Big Talk*.

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2. The costs incurred by the Senate Department were \$6,542 (exclusive of GST).
3. The program was developed by the Clerk, departmental officials and Dr Headon, based on research and knowledge of people with expertise or insights on Clark's work as the chief proponent of a US-style design for the Australian Senate and an independent High Court, along with the work of Clark's contemporaries such as Griffith and Kingston.

As the Clark in Hare-Clark, Clark was also a proponent of proportional representation, a system of voting that has shaped the Senate since 1949. Potential speakers were identified and approached on this basis.

Other speakers included the Hon. Robert French, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, and distinguished Federation scholars, Professor Marilyn Lake, Professor Helen Irving, Professor John Williams, Professor Paul Pickering and Dr James Warden.

4. No.
5. The department met travel and accommodation costs for some of the speakers.
6. There were approximately 80 registered participants. The conference was also televised live on Sky and was webcast on ParView.
7. Yes, the papers are available on the Parliament House website and in pamphlet form from the department.

http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Senate/Research_and_Education/pops.