

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of the Senate

Budget Estimates

26-30 May 2014

Question: 86

Topic: Swearing in of the Governor-General

Written: 12 June 2014

Senator WONG asked:

With reference to the swearing-in of the Governor-General in the Senate on 28 March 2014:

- a) What role did the Department of the Senate play in determining the arrangements, including the chamber seating plan?
- b) Can a copy of the chamber seating plan be provided?
- c) What costs did the Department of the Senate meet in relation to the swearing-in?

Answer:

The swearing-in of a new Governor General may be held at such a place as is decided by the Government, but traditionally it takes place in the Senate.

The department coordinated access to the Senate with officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) who determined the arrangements for the swearing-in of the Governor General.

PM&C coordinated invitations and the seating arrangements for the ceremony. Requests for the seating plan should be directed to PM&C.

The department provided ceremonial support on the day of the swearing-in which included escorting dignitaries to and from the ceremony. The cost of employee time was absorbed by the department.

Some furniture was required to be moved prior to and after the swearing-in ceremony. The department spent around \$550 for removal services.