

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Budget Estimates – May 2017**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**Program 1:** Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

**Outcome 1:** The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

**Topic:** State Visits

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** 259

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 7 July 2017

**Number of Pages:** 1

- a) Can the Office indicate how many state visits to Australia have been hosted by the Governor-General since 1 July 2016?
- b) What countries have been represented?
- c) Who is responsible for issuing invitations to foreign heads of state to visit Australia?
- d) Are they invited in all cases, or do some invite themselves?

**Answer:**

- a) Eight (including Vice Presidents Biden and Pence of the United States who were accorded State Visit status).
- b) Netherlands, Hungary, Jordan, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Nauru and the United States of America.
- c) The Governor-General issues invitations for State Visits on the advice of Government.
- d) All State Visit guests are invited, usually following diplomatic or other bilateral contacts regarding possibilities and suitable timings. Some foreign dignitaries also come to Australia on official or working visits.