



OFFICE OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY  
TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Ms Christine McDonald  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Finance  
and Public Administration  
Suite SG-60  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

I am writing with regard to evidence given by officials of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General at the Additional Estimates hearings of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration (the Committee) held on 21 February 2011. The following are items of clarification I would like to address.

1. Hansard page F&PA 52

In relation to a question from Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson, Mr Brady stated that the Governor-General invited five members and next of kin of a fourth to receive individual awards at an investiture at Government House. This should have been three members and next of kin of a fourth.

2. Hansard pages F&PA 53-54 records the following:

**Senator RONALDSON**—What did Defence say in relation to the transport for those members? Did Defence say it would pay for them or did it say it would not pay for them?

**Ms Prendergast**—I understand that Defence extended an offer to meet the domestic transport costs of the individual honours awardees and one guest to accompany them to the event.

**Senator RONALDSON**—So six people?

**Ms Prendergast**—That would, I think, be 10 people.

**Senator RONALDSON**—The three gentlemen—

**Ms Prendergast**—Sorry, yes, six people.

I would like to clarify that Army extended an offer to meet the domestic transport costs for Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith SG, Second Lieutenant David Sabben MG and Second Lieutenant Geoffrey Kendall MG and one guest each. The Air Force extended an offer to meet the domestic transport costs for Mrs Joan Dohle (the widow of the late Flight Lieutenant Clifford Dohle) and one guest. The total number of people was eight.

3. Hansard pages F&PA 54, 65

In relation to questions from Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson regarding communication between the Department of Defence and this office on the provision of transport to attend an investiture ceremony in Canberra in August 2010, I advised that I was not aware of any correspondence and, after receiving external advice during the hearing, that there was no correspondence. I must advise that this was my understanding at the time; however I have since been advised that there is in fact correspondence, in writing, from the Department of Defence referring to the provision of transport.

4. Hansard page F&PA 61 records the following:

**Senator RONALDSON**—Have you been honoured with any awards personally?

**Mr Brady**—I received an award within the Dutch honours system. That was at the end of my posting as ambassador to the Netherlands.

Following the hearing, Mr Brady reviewed his evidence and would like to advise that he has also been made a *Commander of the Order of St John* and a *Commander of the Royal Order of the Crown of Tonga*.

5. Hansard page F&PA 66 records the following:

In relation to questions from Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson regarding invitations to an investiture at Government House in August 2010, I can advise that an invitation was extended to Long Tan veterans, through the President of the Long Tan Veterans' Association by phone and via email, not through the Department of Defence.

Finally, I stated that I had not seen the invitation. I have subsequently found that I was copied into the email sent to the President of the Long Tan Veterans Association referred to in the previous paragraph.

I hope this letter corrects the record.

Yours sincerely

**Sharon Prendergast**  
Director  
Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat

17 March 2011