

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2011

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: Official Travel

Senator: Fifield

Question reference number: PM44

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011

Number of Pages:3

Question:

1. Can you provide a list of the Governor-General's official visits, both within Australia and overseas, since 1 July 2010?
2. Can you provide the total cost of the Governor-General's air travel since 1 July 2010?
3. What was the expenditure encountered by the Governor-General in her travel to the World Cup bid?
4. How many staff travelled with the Governor General to the World Cup bid? What was the associated cost of taking those staff?
5. Did the Governor General host any functions whilst overseas on the World Cup bid tour? If so, what costs were associated with that?
6. Does the Governor General have a budget for gifts? If so, could you please provide a break down of any gifts the Governor-General has given in her official capacity, and the cost of those gifts?
7. Can you provide a list of gifts the Governor-General has received while on overseas visits?
8. Could you please detail the expenses in upgrades/building additions/renovations and general house maintenance for the financial year 2009/10 and financial year to date at Government House and Admiralty House?
9. The Governor-General's annual report 2009-2010 states that there were 136 functions held at Government House and 65 events held at Admiralty House. Could you provide a list of each function including the cost each function?

Answer:

1. Details of the Governor-General's extensive program of community engagement and official visits, both within Australia and overseas are published daily as part of the Governor-General's Program on the Office's website at www.gg.gov.au.
2. The Department of Defence prepares the Schedule of Special Purpose Flights which is tabled in Parliament every six months.
3. Expenditure incurred by the Office relating to the Governor-General totalled \$12,377.

4. Four staff from the Office travelled with the Governor-General to the World Cup Bid. One other staff member advanced the visit (as logistics on the ground were complex and there is no resident Australian representation in Zurich). The cost to the Office of staff travelling to provide necessary support was \$11,224.
5. The Governor-General hosted a small reception for Australians resident in Zurich. The total cost of this function was \$1,134.
6. The Governor-General does not have a budget for gifts. Official gifts which the Governor-General presents when she travels overseas are sourced from a provider contracted by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the costs are met by that Department.
7. All gifts are managed in accordance with the Office's Official Gifts Policy and are recorded, securely stored and audited. The following official gifts have been presented to the Governor-General whilst travelling overseas (as at date of Additional Estimates 2011):
 - Fromelles medallion; glass and crystal decanter; Le Hamel plate; silk scarf and Hermes knotting cards (France)
 - silver coffee pot; silver dish; porcelain battlements miniature, books (Malta)
 - shawl; Istana plate; framed wood carving (Singapore)
 - painting of three women; painting of a boy; Alola basket; Parliament scarf; university scarf; baskets; scarves and replica crown (Timor-Leste)
 - gift box with silver ornament and book (UAE)
 - mirror; photograph album; crystal mermaid; painting of boats (Mauritius)
 - wall hanging (Namibia)
 - traditional cloth; ebony and rosewood statue; painting of people around a fire; two pillows; wood carving; traditional cloth; carved wooden box; woven basket (Zambia)
 - ceramic tea set; framed set of traditional artefacts; woven basket (Botswana)
 - book (South Africa)
 - photograph album; traditional costume; ebony bust; painting; book (Mozambique)
 - shawl and calendars (Ethiopia)
 - photo frame; silver dish; statuette; framed photograph; baskets and woodware (Kenya)
 - elephant painting; caribou bust; wooden sculpture; painting "Tanzania" (Tanzania)
 - gift box with coconut shell; wooden deskware; tie and scarf; painting of beach scene (Seychelles)
 - silver writing set; glass vase; porcelain vase (Turkey)
 - crystal vase; framed embroidery; chopsticks; teacups; book; ginkgo seed in perspex; photograph album; Shanghai EXPO porcelain vase ; scroll with paper cut; model EXPO pavilion; tea set; pavilion badges; framed photograph; scroll with calligraphy; lacquered bowl; dragon seal in wooden box (China)
 - two wooden carvings (Vanuatu)
 - book; panorama print on scroll; book, DVD and photograph; woven shawl; book; woven headgear; traditional cloth; box with photographs and plaque (Malaysia)
 - book and calendar (Singapore)

8. All upgrades/building additions/renovations have been managed as part of the 10-year Vice-Regal Heritage Property Master Plan funded by Government in the 2005-06 budget. Both properties are also managed in accordance with dedicated Heritage Management Plans and Landscape Management Plans. Details of all major projects for 2009-10 were published in the Office's Annual Report 2009-10 available at www.gg.gov.au. All property expenditure exceeding \$10,000 has been published on the Government's AusTender website. Property maintenance costs are also published in the Office's Annual Reports. General household maintenance costs (including cleaning supplies) for 2009-10 totalled \$29,131 and for 2010-11 year to date to 28 February 2011 totalled \$18,286.
9. Each official function held by the Governor-General is published as part of the Governor-General's Program on the Office's website at www.gg.gov.au. Costs are not recorded on a per function basis. Determining the cost of each individual function would be considered an unreasonable diversion of resources.