

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: Luigi Casagrande – withdrawal of honour

Senator: B. Brown

Question reference number: PM57

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 1

Question:

1. Has the secretariat investigated withdrawing the Order of Australia given to Luigi Casagrande in 2009 following allegations of fraud made against him regarding his educational qualifications?
2. What decision was made and why?
3. Do secretariat staff note in their investigations of nominations whether the person has made donations to political parties?

Answer:

1. Due to the need for confidentiality, individual cases are never commented on.
2. Due to the need for confidentiality individual cases are never commented on. However, any decision the Governor-General makes with regard to the termination or cancellation of an appointment or award is on the advice of the Council and a notification is gazetted in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette.
3. The Council considers all nominations on their individual merits and decisions on whether an award should be recommended are based on information provided by the nominator and referees (both those supplied and those sought by the Secretariat).