

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2014**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Special Suites**

Question: **161**

Hansard Page No **45–49**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014**

**Senator FAULKNER:** Are you able to say what the costs are in these individual areas? You have talked about the Mural Hall, the Prime Minister's office and the cabinet anteroom as the three key areas.

**Ms Mills:** Yes. I can certainly provide some of that now and some of that on notice, if I may.

**Senator FAULKNER:** Can you just let us know what you can provide us with now?

**Ms Mills:** And in doing that, I will include the other suites, if I may.

**CHAIR:** Yes. Can I reiterate that I am interested in the five suites.

**Senator FAULKNER:** Why don't you give the whole picture?

**Ms Mills:** I will give you as much as I possibly can, if I may, with what I have on hand. Can I reiterate that I am going to focus on the five special suites, and they are: the two Presiding Officer's suites, the cabinet suite, the Leader of the Opposition's suite and the Prime Minister's office suite. Obviously they are all very heavily used rooms and they are not often vacated. We tend, in a cycle, each six months, to do as much general maintenance work as we can—patchwork repair, repolishing, cleaning the carpets and so on—and we tend to only have either the July break or the interparliamentary period break to do more substantial work.

During the break between parliaments, we repainted the Leader of the Opposition's suite for the first time since 2008, at a cost of \$10,088.

**Senator FAULKNER:** When did this occur?

**Ms Mills:** It occurred after the parliament rose and before the new parliament was formed. I can say that we did do some work in that period—I am sorry, I do not know the exact date—on the Norman lounges of the cabinet suite. I apologise, but I do not know exactly what a Norman lounge is. That cost us \$17,600, and that had never been done in 25 years. Again, I will flesh that out a little more in answer to a question on notice.

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**Senator FAULKNER:** So as I listened carefully, and I hope my arithmetic is accurate, you spent \$17,000 in the Leader of Opposition's office, \$23,000 in the Speaker of the House Representatives office, \$23,000 in the President of the Senate's office and currently \$92,038 in the Prime Minister's office, understanding what you have said about other work in progress. Unlike some others, I have always understood that from time to time in terms of maintenance and the like, work has to be done. Can you give us a time frame of when you think you will be able to give us the full picture in terms of the cost in all these suites?

**Ms Mills:** I can give you as a question on notice exactly what we have paid and what is planned. As the next period when we can do any significant work will not be until the July recess, probably the following estimates would be the best placed time to give you a summation of all of the work that is being done over the 12-month period.

**Senator FAULKNER:** How long do you think it will take for the first part of that answer, which is not the next tranche?

**Ms Mills:** I can certainly as part of this questions on notice set give you information on everything that has been spent to date and best estimates that we can for known and foreshadowed work over the next six months.

...

**Senator FAULKNER:** As I said, if you could take on notice as much as you are able in this estimates round on the nature, extent and cost of the work in the various special areas, understanding that there will be more information available at the next estimates round, that would be appreciated.

**Ms Mills:** Thank you.

**Answer:** The following table lists the costs for works undertaken in the Special Suites for the period 1 July 2013 – 31 January 2014.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Works</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Prime Minister's Office	Routine maintenance (carpet, painting and upholstery)	\$33,371
	Project Works	
	Prime Minister's Suite	\$50,241
	Other Office areas	\$44,235
	<b>Suite Total</b>	<b>\$127,847</b>
Cabinet Suite – MG 10	Routine maintenance (Upholstery)	\$17,600
	Project Works	\$0
	<b>Suite Total</b>	<b>\$17,600</b>
Leader of the Opposition's Office – RG 109	Routine maintenance (Painting)	\$10,088
	Project Works	\$0
	<b>Suite Total</b>	<b>\$10,088</b>
President's Suite SG 40	Routine maintenance	\$0
	Project Works	\$23,000
	<b>Suite Total</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>
Speaker's Suite RG 44	Routine maintenance	\$0
	Project Works	\$23,000
	<b>Suite Total</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>
<b>Total sub-elements</b>		<b>\$201,535</b>

No planned works are scheduled for the period 1 February 2014 – 30 June 2014 in the Special Suites.