

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Order of Australia

Senator: Senator Dean Smith

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Question:

Senator SMITH: I just want to confirm. What was the total number of non-citizens that received honorary awards in the Order of Australia classification over the previous seven years?

Mr Rush: I would need to take that on notice. The numbers vary.

Senator SMITH: Really? With all due respect, with all of the media that has been available, you would have to take that on notice?

Mr Rush: I do. I am sorry; I do not have those figures available.

Senator SMITH: Is it close to one? Is it close to 10? Is it closer to 30? Is it closer to 45?

Mr Rush: It probably runs to the order of 10 to 20 honorary appointments each year.

Senator SMITH: Each year. I am looking for information over the last seven years.

Mr Rush: So it would be in the order of 100.

Senator SMITH: The point is that there were other non-citizens appointed to the Order of Australia honours system at senior levels in excess of 10 or 20.

Mr Rush: Yes, certainly.

Senator SMITH: I suspect it is close to 45, but you will be able to clarify that.

Mr Rush: It is certainly in excess of 10 or 20. I think it would be more than 40 or 50 across the whole range of levels over that period.

Senator Abetz: I do not know why, but the figure of 46 jumps to mind. I do not know why.

Mr Rush: It might be 45 plus one.

Senator WONG: May I just ask on notice, if the same number can be provided for the 1996 to 2007 period.

Senator Abetz: I think that was only in the Gillard period—the 46.

Answer:

91 honorary appointments to the General Division of the Order of Australia were made between 1 January 2008 and 23 February 2015.

170 honorary appointments to the General Division of the Order of Australia were made between 1 January 1996 and 31 December 2007.

These figures do not include honorary appointments to the Military Division of the Order of Australia.