

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2016

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Office changes since the change in Prime Minister

Question: 170

Hansard Reference p 64-65; 8 February 2016

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

Senator WONG: That is fine. I want to make sure I found them, so that we all knew where we were. As part of the change in Prime Minister, there were some media reporting of the changes to the Prime Minister's Office made at the request of Prime Minister Turnbull—removal of chairs, insulation of a dinner table, standing desk et cetera. Are you able to give me any indication of what changes have been made since the change of Prime Minister in the office to furnishings, soft furnishings, dining room et cetera.

Mr Barnes: Yes Senator; I am just trying to find the information.

Senator WONG: I do not mind this on notice. Do you have it here?

Mr Barnes: I think so.

Senator WONG: Okay. What if we spin through that and we can move on.

Mr Barnes: I am just trying to find it.

Mr Stefanic: Senator Wong, are you asking specifically about the Prime Minister's suite?

Senator WONG: What should I be asking about, Mr Stefanic?

Mr Stefanic: I am querying about suite changes post-Prime Minister changes generally. I am just seeking clarification.

Senator WONG: Sorry, I do not understand what you mean.

Mr Stefanic: With the change of Prime Minister, there were various movements as a result.

Senator WONG: Other suite changes. No, at this stage I am confining my question to: what changed in the Prime Minister's suite? Do you have something we can—

Mr Barnes: Yes, Senator. Would you like me to just run through the list?

Senator WONG: Is it in a form you could table?

Mr Barnes: Not immediately, but I could do so later. There are 15 items: install minister's executive desk—

Senator WONG: Minister? We are talking about the PM here, are we?

Mr Barnes: Yes. These are relevant to the new Prime Minister. Is that what you are seeking, or are you seeking only the Prime Minister's office?

Senator WONG: Why don't you take me through the 15. Let's do it that way.

Mr Barnes: These are furniture movements as a consequence of the change of Prime Minister. That includes all of the suites that were affected.

Mr Stefanic: Senator Wong, could we perhaps take that on notice and provide a detailed response to you? I am sorry.

Senator WONG: Okay. Let's do both, then. There was some media about changes within the Prime Minister's suite—changes to furnishing and the like. Can I have that on notice, and the cost of same. Also, helpfully, as per the secretary's suggestion, other movements and other furniture changes in other suites, and the cost of those. Is that the best way to split it up?

Mr Barnes: Yes.

Senator WONG: What about the art? Has the art changed? Which art has been removed and which art has been installed since the change of Prime Minister?

Mr Stefanic: We can detail that information in our response.

Answer

Detailed below are the furniture moves which resulted from the change in Prime Minister. Items 1 to 14 were undertaken by external contractors at a cost of \$942.71 (GST inclusive). Item 15 was undertaken by a specialist contractor at a cost of \$1,291 (GST inclusive).

Prime Minister's suite			
Item	Date	Suite Number	Action
1	02/10/15	MG 08	Remove four (4) single lounge chairs and install meeting table and (8) eight tub chairs
2	29/09/15	MG 10	Remove bronze coffee table base for repair
Other Ministerial Suites			
3	23/09/15	M1 21	Install Minister's executive desk
4	24/09/15	M1 19	Install Minister's executive desk
5	24/09/15	M1 19	Remove lounges
6	24/09/15	MG 47	Remove lounge and chair
7	24/09/15	MG 60	Install computer desk return
8	29/09/15	M1 19	Install lounge
9	01/10/15	MG 68	Install coffee table
10	01/10/15	MG 61	Install TV cabinet, tub chair and coffee table
11	01/10/15	MG 46	Swap over Minister's executive desk
12	02/10/15	Ground Floor Library	Swap over of meeting table and tub chairs following the movement of a table from this area to the PMO.
13	02/10/15	M1 19	Install meeting table
14	07/10/15	MG 61	Remove TV cabinet & install cabinet
15	08/10/15	MG 68 & 70	Remove and re-install bookcase

The following artworks from the Parliament House Art collection were removed from the Prime Minister's Suite on 18 September 2015:

- Oscar Nemon, *Bust of Sir Winston Churchill*, 1965
- Winston Churchill, *Near Antibes*, c.1945
- Louis Kahan, *Menzies*, 1964
- Lucy Yukenbarri, *Maapaa near Pippa, Great Sandy Desert*, 1994
- Jean Baptiste Apuatimi, *Untitled*, undated
- Peter Gertler, *Coffee service*, 1985
- Peter Gertler, *Candlesticks*, 1985
- Beatrice Schlabowsky, *Bowl*, 1997
- Keith Rowe, *Moonlight Glass Vase*, c.2001
- Maria Butcher, *Bushrope 2*, 2007

- Angeline Pwerle Ngala, *Bush Plum Dreaming*, 2007
- Angeline Pwerle Ngala, *Bush Plum*, 2008

The following artworks on loan to the Prime Minister's Office from the National Gallery of Australia were removed from the suite and returned to the Gallery on 25 September 2015:

- Russell Drysdale, *Boy running, Cooktown*, c.1952
- Hilda Rix Nicholas, *Molongolo River from Mount Pleasant, Canberra*, 1927
- Fred Williams, *Rock Face at Agnes Falls*, 1979
- Margaret Olley, *Hawkesbury wildflowers and pears*, c.1973
- Sidney Nolan, *Inland Australia*, 1950
- Sidney Nolan, *Ku-ring-gai Chase*, 1948

The following artwork on loan to the Prime Minister's Office from the National Museum of Australia was removed from the suite on 25 September 2015, placed in climate storage and returned to the National Museum of Australia on 1 October 2015:

- William Dargie, *HRH Queen Elizabeth II*, 1954

Art installed in the Prime Minister's Suite (MG.8)

The following artworks from the Parliament House Art Collection were installed in the Prime Minister's suite on 25 and 29 September 2015:

- Rosalie Gascoigne, *Winter Paddock*, 1984
- Turkey Tolson Tjupurrula, *Straightening Spears*, 1996
- Queenie McKenzie, *Rainbow Dreaming*, 1992
- Joan Ross, *BBQ this Sunday (Brave New Year's)*, 2011
- Danie Mellor, *Stranger in Paradise*, 2003
- Christopher Pease, *Peron Peninsula 1*, 2009
- Narelle Jubelin, *Petit Point (Detail from Infanta Margarita...)*, 1990
- Lloyd Rees, *Passing Vision*, 1982-1983
- Michael Cook, *Majority Rule (Court)*, 2014
- Michael Cook, *Majority Rule (Parliament)*, 2014
- Michael Cook, *Civilised #1*, 2012
- Robyn Djunginy, *Woven Bottle*, 2013
- Robyn Djunginy, *Bottle*, 2013
- Esme Timbery, *Sydney Harbour Bridge*, c.2014
- Guy Maestri, *Govett's Leap*, 2013

As a result of the leadership change, 283 artworks in 44 suites were relocated during the period 21/9/2015 to 18/10/2015 at a total cost of \$26,153.02.