

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Additional Estimates – February 2016**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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:** Governor-General's Melbourne Cup Speech

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** 272

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of Pages:** 1

Does the Governor-General still employ a speechwriter.

Does the speechwriter write all of the Governor-General's speeches.

Did a speechwriter write the Melbourne Day Cup speech of the Governor-General last year.

Was there any discussion immediately prior to the speech about mentioning that the first female jockey had won the Melbourne Cup.

**Answer:**

Yes.

No.

The speech was the Governor-General's, and included drafting input from staff.

The Governor-General personally congratulated Ms Michelle Payne following her Melbourne Cup win. He brought her to the front of the stage and mentioned her three times during his 74 second remarks as part of the Melbourne Cup presentation ceremony.