

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Finance
Outcome/Program: 3/3.1
Topic: Opposition Leaders' office locations

Senator: Jacinta Collins
Question reference number: F84
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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: In fact, has an opposition leader ever not received an office in their home base?

Ms Moy: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator Ronaldson: Just to confirm, that was in the CPO, was it?

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: No, in their home base.

Senator Ronaldson: But Mr Abbott's office was in the CPO?

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Yes. You will probably need to take this on notice. How long did it take for Mr Abbott's office to be established when he became opposition leader?

Ms Barons: In the CPO—we will have to take that on notice.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Has a Leader of the Opposition ever not received an office with sufficient numbers of desks and computers in their home base?

Senator Ronaldson: I do not know whether the officer can answer this question. It would almost be impossible. I think in fairness to the officer that should be taken on notice.

Ms Moy: I could not answer that question now—

Senator Ronaldson: We will take it on notice.

Answer:

In 2005, the then Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Kim Beazley, received approval to establish his Opposition Office Holder's office in Sydney. There have been no other Opposition Leaders who have sought to establish an office away from their home State since this time.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP became Leader of the Opposition on 1 December 2009. An Opposition Office Holder's office was established for Mr Abbott in the Sydney Commonwealth Parliament Offices in early February 2010.

Under Schedule 1, Part 2, Item 5 of the *Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990*, an Opposition Office Holder is entitled to office accommodation in a capital city, together with the equipment and facilities necessary to operate the office, as approved by the Special Minister of State.