

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Funding for official residences

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 37

**Type of Question:** FPA, Tuesday 27 May 2014, page 17

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator WONG: That is fine. I appreciate the notice. I will just do as much as I can. Just to confirm, this shows funding for the Prime Minister's official residences continuing to rise over the forward estimates, over the budget period, from 1.611 million in 13-14, 1.697 in 14-15, 1.77 in 15-16, 1.81 in 16-17 and 1.85 in 17-18. Is that right?

Ms McIntyre: It is certainly what the table shows, yes.

Senator WONG: So the end of entitlement does not apply to the Prime Minister's residences?

Ms McIntyre: It is administered, so efficiency dividends are not applied. But there are parameter updates in terms of adjustments.

Senator WONG: I am simply making the point that you are seeing increasing funding for the Prime Minister's residences at a time—

Ms Cross: I think it is maintaining the funding in real terms, but we will check that for you. It is just maintaining funding in real dollar terms.

Senator WONG: It is going from 1.6 million to 1.85 million.

Ms Cross: I think that is simply indexation, so it is maintaining the funding in real dollar terms. But we will check that for you.

Senator WONG: At the same time as people on benefits have to take a hit.

Ms Cross: I think the cost of the residences is a fixed cost that is just being maintained in real terms. But we will confirm that for you.

**Answer:**

The increases are solely due to indexation.

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Programme funding is indexed in line with the guidance issued by the Department of Finance. The appropriation provided to cover the Prime Minister's residence, like other appropriations across government programmes, is indexed in line with this guidance.