

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—November 2013**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary Departments: Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Art Services**

Question No: **122**

Hansard Page No: 36, 40 and 43

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014**

**Ms Mills:** It was a request of the Prime Minister's office.

**Senator WONG:** By whom?

...

**Senator WONG:** ...And I am asking on notice—or perhaps you can provide it later in the hearing today: what was the request for a specific portrait made by the Prime Minister's office?

...

**Senator WONG:** And was there any communication that you are aware of between the Prime Minister's office and the National Museum directly?

...

**Senator WONG:** ...Can you also, on notice, clarify: when you say 'copy', is it actually an original painted by Mr Dargie, of the same subject matter? Second, can you confirm the value of it? I have an entry from the National Museum that has the price at a total of \$146,000—that is, \$120,000 plus auction house charges. Can you confirm what the current value of the painting is?

**Answer**

The painting is an original oil painting by Mr Dargie; it is referred to as a copy as it was painted from the portrait in the Members' Hall and not from life. The current value of the painting, as advised by the National Museum of Australia on 3 December 2013, is \$148,000 (ex-GST).

During DPS's standard offer of artworks from the Parliament House Art Collection, the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff enquired if there was a painted portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in the Parliament House Art Collection that could be made available for display in the Prime Minister's Suite. DPS has one painting of Her Majesty the Queen in the Parliament House Art Collection and it is on permanent public display in the Members' Hall as part of the Historic Memorials Collection display.

The Chief of Staff was advised by DPS that a Dargie portrait had recently been purchased by the National Museum of Australia and was given contact details for the Acting Director at the National Museum of Australia to directly arrange a loan. DPS was not involved in communications between the Prime Minister's Office and the National Museum of Australia.