

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Supplementary Estimates – October 2015**  
**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:** Winter solstice dinner

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** 126

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 December 2015

**Number of Pages:** 4

With reference to an online media report on ABC News on 27 June 2015 titled "Governor General promises not to confront diplomats with emu, crocodile meat at Government House".

1. Who initiated the inaugural Winter Solstice Dinner?
2. Have other organisations been able to host similar dinners previously. If so, can details be provided?
3. How are these dinners declared if they are hosted by organisations?
4. Who paid for the Winter Solstice Dinner?
5. With reference to reports that crocodile and emu were off the menu at the dinner - is this correct? Are they usually on the menu for the Governor General?
6. What was on the menu at this dinner and who provided the food?
7. Did the Governor General say "We don't want to confront our guests without some warning." What did he mean by that?
8. Please provide the guest list and menu for the Winter Solstice Dinner.

**Answer:**

1. The Winter Solstice Dinner was an initiative of the Agribusiness Council of Australia, to showcase and promote Australian produce including to representatives of Australia's largest export markets.

2. Dinners are regularly hosted by the Governor-General in support of an organisation or initiative. Details, including guest lists, are listed on the Governor-General's website ([www.gg.gov.au](http://www.gg.gov.au)).

3. Invitations for dinners and other events to be hosted at Government House, if accepted, are hosted by the Governor-General, not by individual organisations.
4. Costs associated with the dinner were met by the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.
5. Crocodile and emu have not been included in menus at Government House in recent memory.
6. The buffet menu was prepared by Government House staff to showcase the best of Australian seasonal produce, and included:

- Oysters
- Smoked trout
- Lamb cutlets
- Kangaroo
- Pork belly
- Duck breast
- Carrots, honey, feta and black garlic
- Brussel sprouts with bacon
- Cheese platter with local cheeses
- Pavlova
- Macarons
- Assorted sweets and licorice

Suppliers included:

- Canberra Urban Honey
- Pialligo Farm Smokehouse
- Small Cow Farm
- Jindi Cheese
- Dream Cuisine Macarons
- June Licorice & Chocolate Factory
- Mrs Jamieson's Home Made Fudge
- The ABC Cheese Factory

7. The Governor-General made the following comments in an interview with Landline.

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2015/s4263142.htm>

*Yes, they are. We quite often have special spices. We don't often serve meat from Australian beasts that are in the wild - kangaroo, emu, crocodile - but we do use the spices very often. I suppose what I say here is we would promote that these Indigenous Australian creatures are good foodstuffs, but we don't want to confront our guests without some warning. So we do basically go middle of the road perhaps on the basic foodstuffs, but all the spices and the sauces and the lemon myrtle which you might have or the bush pepper you'll have on the kangaroo fillets tonight, these are part and parcel of our chef's repertoire.*

8. The menu is listed in the answer to question six. The guest list included:

Ms Joanna Baker  
Mr Oliver Straiton

His Excellency Mr John Berry  
Mr Curtis Yee

Mr Colin Bettles

Mrs Kirrily Blomfield  
Mr Derek Blomfield

Senator the Honourable Richard Colbeck

Mr Tony Coote AM  
Mrs Toni Coote

Ms Pip Courtney

Mr Clayton Donovan  
Ms Remy Tancred

Mr Roy Duncanson

The Honourable Joel Fitzgibbon MP

Mr Scott Fraser  
Mrs Paula Fraser

Mr Ken Helm AM  
Ms Stephanie Helm

Mr Ian Henderson

Mrs Alexandra Iljadica  
Mr Marko Iljadica

His Excellency Mr Bonghyun Kim  
Mrs Jungsoon Kim

His Excellency Mr Sumio Kusaka  
Mrs Ikuko Kusaka

Mr William Lark  
Mrs Lynette Lark

Mr Ian McColl

Mr Stewart McConachy

Mr Brett McLachlan

Mr Hugh Munro

Mrs Juliet Munro

Mrs Carmen Pearce-Brown

Mr Mitchell Pearce

Emeritus Professor James Pratley

Mrs Marion Pratley

Professor Brajesh Singh

Mr Selwyn Snell

Mrs Barbara Snell

His Excellency Mr Navdeep Suri

Mrs Maninder Suri