



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Ms Lyn Beverley
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

I wish to advise of the following corrections or clarifications to the record in relation to evidence provided at the Supplementary Estimates hearings on 17 and 21 October 2016, regarding the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) portfolio.

Monday 17 October 2016

1. On pages 34 and 35 of the Proof Committee Hansard:

Following a review of documentation, I would like to clarify the evidence which was provided by Ms Elizabeth Kelly, Deputy Secretary, Governance to the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee on Monday 17 October 2016 in relation to the luggage lift installed at The Lodge.

In Ms Kelly's evidence she made the following statements: "My understanding is that the luggage lift was something that was recommended by the architects in the early stages of the refurbishment" (p34); "The luggage lift was part of the earliest discussions about the refurbishment in 2010, when there was a different Prime Minister" (p35), and "I am just making it clear so as not to mislead the committee that the luggage lift was part of the 2010 earliest plans for the refurbishment of the Lodge" (p35).

While this remains Ms Kelly's understanding, the first PM&C record we can locate relating to the installation of a luggage lift is in the minutes of The Lodge Project Steering Committee at its meeting on 23 October 2013 as part of additional works in the refurbishment project.

2. On pages 111 and 112 of the Proof Committee Hansard:

I would like to clarify the evidence which was provided by Ms Paula Ganly, First Assistant Secretary, Ministerial Support Division to the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee on Monday 17 October 2016 in relation to functions at the Prime Minister's Official Establishments and guidelines for use of the Official Establishments.

Administered funding for the Official Establishments may be used to cater for functions held by the Prime Minister which are related to the Prime Minister's official duties (e.g. receptions with ministers, parliamentarians, senior officials, and industry and community representatives).

The Official Establishments may be used for party/political functions involving political organisations (such as a National Executive meetings) however the cost of these functions cannot be met from the department's administered funding and reimbursement is sought from the Prime Minister or relevant organisation. Political fund raising activities cannot occur at the Official Establishments.

There is no formal document entitled "Guidelines for Use of the Official Establishments" however there are internal departmental documents which provide relevant guidance. Apart from some minor updating, these internal documents have not changed substantially since former Prime Minister Howard's time in office.

The Statement of Ministerial Standards issued by the Prime Minister and available on the PM&C website identifies that Ministers will not authorise or participate in any electoral fundraising activities at the Prime Minister's official residences.

Friday 21 October 2016

1. On page 18 of the Proof Committee Hansard, Mr Fry wishes to correct the statement as follows:

Mr Fry: Out of the 252 that have been acquired, ~~33~~ 23 per cent are still held and managed by the ILC.

Yours sincerely

Brendan MacDowell
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Ministerial Support Division

17 November 2016