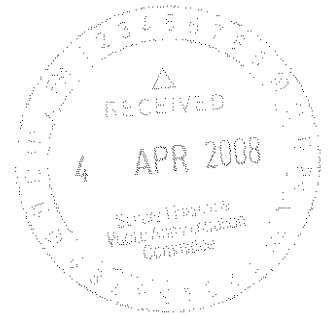


Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Additional Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008**



Question: PM34

Outcome 1, Output 4.4

Topic: New Year's Eve Function

Hansard Page: F&PA 98-99

Senator Ronaldson asked: Senator RONALDSON - And the number of people who were there, the cost of the function?

Senator Chris Evans - I will just check with the department as to whether they are capable of answering any of those questions. As I say, I have no personal knowledge.

Senator RONALDSON - But you are happy to take it on notice?

Senator Chris Evans - Just taking up Senator Ray's point, one of those questions may well be capable of an answer by the department now, so I am happy to ask the officer whether she can help you with one of those. If she cannot then I will take it on notice...

Senator RONALDSON - Just so we are absolutely clear, and before anyone gets overly excited, I will ask again. Senator Evans, are you prepared to take on notice whether the Prime Minister paid for this personally, whether it was funded by the Australian Labor Party, whether there were tickets sold to fund this, what the costs of the function were and were there any previous donors to the Australian Labor Party at this function? Unless my colleagues can think of anything else, I will now return to the department to ask them a couple of questions about this as well.

Senator Chris Evans - Could I just indicate that I will take those question on notice and, to the extent I can help you, I will.

Answer:

The Prime Minister personally met all the additional costs associated with the conduct of the New Year's Eve function at Kirribilli House. It has been long-standing practice not to release the details of individual functions held at the official residences, including private functions. The Prime Minister has advised that the New Year's Eve function conformed with the Standards of Ministerial Ethics which strictly prohibit political fundraising at the official residences.