

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: The Lodge

Senator: Senator Cory Bernardi

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Question:

1. When the then Member for Griffith became Prime Minister the second time around in 2013 did he move into an official establishment even though an election was imminent?
2. How long did Mr Rudd officially reside in the Lodge in 2013?
3. What was the cost to move Mr Rudd and his family into the Lodge in 2013?
4. It was reported recently that: "Documents released under a FOI request show the most costly move was the Rudd family's departure from The Lodge in Canberra in 2010, which cost taxpayers \$18,187 in removalist fees and \$5299.80 in cleaning services." Could you explain why cleaning services were necessary, particularly since the Lodge was due for imminent renovations?
5. Since 2007, how many times has PM&C engaged removalists to assist in moving a Prime Minister into or out of an official establishment? And what were the fees for cleaning services on each occasion?
6. Did PM&C receive any special requirements from the then Member for Griffith regarding the transportation of his possessions during his moves to and from official establishments?

Answer:

- 1 Yes.
- 2 During the period 27 June to 7 September 2013, the then Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, stayed at The Lodge when he was in Canberra.
- 3 Nil.
- 4 In 2010 full professional cleaning services (of carpets, soft furnishings such as curtains and sofas, and windows) were considered to be necessary prior to the then Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, taking up residence. These

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services were consistent with commercial arrangements for tenanted houses between long term tenants.

5 Five occasions as follows:

- the Hon John Howard in 2007 (on leaving office)
- Mr Rudd in 2007 (on taking up residence)
- Mr Rudd in 2010 (on leaving office)
- Ms Gillard in 2013 (on leaving office), and
- Mr Rudd in 2013 (on leaving office).

The fees for professional cleaning services at the Official Establishments (The Lodge and Kirribilli House) at the changeover of Prime Ministers were:

	The Lodge	Kirribilli House	Total
2010-11	\$5,299.80	Nil	\$5,299.80
2013-14	\$1,201.00	\$1,762.00	\$2,963.00

Sourcing data for 2007 would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources as there was a change in financial reporting systems in 2009-10.

6 No.