

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: Governor-General Designate

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 61

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

With reference to assistance to the Governor-General Designate, can details be provided of the arrangements and budgeted and actual costs of the following:

- (a) interim office and personal secretary
- (b) interim transport arrangements
- (c) re-location arrangements
- (d) business-class travel to London to call on Her Majesty The Queen
- (e) clothing and fitting-out allowance and
- (f) entertainment allowance?

Answer:

The Prime Minister of the day determines the nature of the support to be made available to the Governor-General Designate. For General Peter Cosgrove AC MC, as designate, the Prime Minister determined, consistent with longstanding practice, that the following arrangements would be made:

- staffing (administrative support at the full-time equivalent APS 6 level)
- office accommodation (rent and utilities)
- general office expenses (e.g. stationery and postage)
- travel for official purposes
- communication (telephone and internet) costs
- costs of moving personal effects to Canberra, and
- a one-off clothing and fitting out allowance (the previous three Governors-General were provided with a similar allowance).

Support for the Governor-General Designate is not budgeted as a separate item; it is funded from administered funding for former and designated Governors-General.

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In relation to each question, costs incurred by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) to 28 February 2014 are:

- (a) \$8,564.23 for office accommodation for March. No additional costs for staffing as a PM&C officer was temporarily reassigned to provide assistance to General Cosgrove.
- (b) \$4,240.90 for domestic travel for official purposes.
- (c) nil.
- (d) refer to response to PM62.
- (e) an advance of \$28,000 was provided to General Cosgrove for clothing and fitting-out, which is to be expensed over the next 12 months.
- (f) nil.