

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Estimates – February 2014
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: Ms Bryce as Governor-General designate

Senator: Bernardi

Question reference number: QoN 2

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 2

Mr Brady: She availed herself of that. PM&C I think provide an EA to the Governor-General designate.

CHAIR: That was consistent with both the most recent appointment and the previous one, with Ms Bryce and General Cosgrove?

Mr Brady: I did not know Ms Bryce as Governor-General designate except towards the end.

CHAIR: Perhaps you could have a look at that for me and advise me. One final question, and it sounds a bit picky, but: what class of travel do they travel at as the designate?

...

CHAIR: And how have previous Governor-General designates travelled?

Mr Brady: I do not know but the entitlement is to first class travel.

CHAIR: Perhaps you could let me know about Ms Bryce in that respect.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is responsible for all matters relating to the Governor-General Designate (GGD). The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has provided the following information:

While Ms Bryce was offered an Executive Assistant by PM&C during her time as GGD, she declined the offer.

The entitlement is to first class travel overseas.

Information about the class of travel by GGDs in 2003 and earlier is not readily available.

Ms Bryce's travel to the United Kingdom as GGD in 2008 Ms Bryce was on a mixed class fare as follows:

- On 8 August 2008 GGD flew Brisbane to Singapore business class and then Singapore to London first class.
- On 13 August 2008 GGD flew London to Singapore first class and then Singapore to Brisbane business class.

Ms Bryce was accompanied by a PM&C officer.