

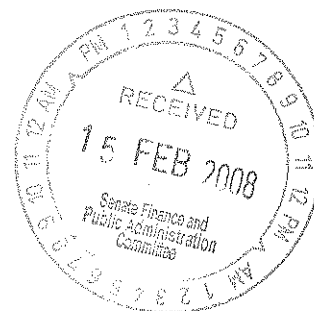
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2007-2008, 21-22 May 2007



Question: PM 99

Outcome 1, Output 4.5

Topic: Non-dependent children

Direct on Notice:

Senator Evans asked:

Living costs of Prime Minister's children while at Kirribilli House

1. Wasn't the Prime Minister's original reasoning for living at Kirribilli House rather than The Lodge because he had dependent children living at home? Given that the Prime Minister's children are now non-dependent, what is the Prime Minister's current rationale for residing at Kirribilli House rather than at The Lodge?
2. In relation to the response to question on notice 190, tabled in the House of Representatives on 18 August 2005:
 - a) Who decided that the Prime Minister's children should start paying a contribution for accommodation and sustenance for the time they stay at Kirribilli House? Was it the Department? Someone else? When was this decision taken?
 - b) In what circumstances do the Prime Minister's children pay for staying at Kirribilli House? Is it just when they spend the night? What about if they stay for meals?
 - c) On what date did the Prime Minister's children start paying a contribution for accommodation and sustenance at Kirribilli House?
 - d) What items are covered by the so-called contribution for accommodation and sustenance (food, bed, water use, etc)? Who made the decision on what items would be covered?
 - e) What is the current rate for the Prime Minister's children when they stay overnight at Kirribilli House? Is this rate ever adjusted? On what basis?
 - f) Who in the Department makes the decision on how much the Prime Minister's children should pay for accommodation and sustenance while at Kirribilli House?

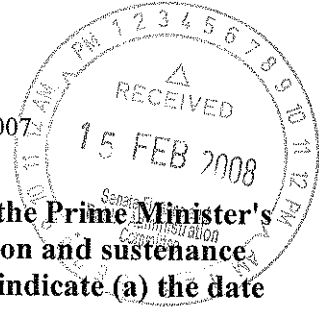
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

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- g) Please provide a full list of every occasion on which the Prime Minister's children have made a contribution for accommodation and sustenance while at Kirribilli House. As part of this list, please indicate (a) the date costs were incurred, (b) the amount of costs incurred, (c) the reason for the costs, (d) which child incurred the costs, and (e) the date payment was made.**
- h) Since this arrangement was instigated, when was the last payment made, what was the amount and what period did that payment cover?**

Answer:

1. The department is not in a position to respond on behalf of the former Prime Minister.
2. a) In February 2000, the department briefed on a contribution towards accommodation and sustenance for the former Prime Minister's non-dependent children.
b) A contribution towards accommodation and sustenance was paid when the former Prime Minister's non-dependent children resided at the residence. No contribution was paid for short visits or when they came for meals.
c) 3 February 2000 and 1 October 2000.
d) The department proposed, and the former Prime Minister agreed, that the contribution be based on accommodation, meals and sundry items such as electricity, water and telephone and that the children meet the cost of personal items such as dry cleaning and items for their use only.
e-f) None of the former Prime Minister's children resided at Kirribilli House as at May 2007.
g-h) Under the former Government, details that could possibly impinge on the private affairs of the former Prime Minister's family were not released.