

**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 Hearing 26 May - 27 May 2008**



**Question: PM36**

**Outcome 1, Output 5.5**

**Topic: Star-rating of Willard Inter-Continental**

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**Senator Ronaldson asked: Senator RONALDSON-What is the Willard InterContinental-a three-, four- or five-star hotel?**

**Mr Leverett-I do not know, Senator. It is a good hotel.**

**Senator RONALDSON-It is a good hotel, isn't it? Can you double-check and see whether it was a two-, three-, four- or five-star hotel and how much the overall cost was?**

**Answer:** We have been advised by the Australian Embassy in Washington that there is no standard method for rating hotels in the United States. There are different systems in use. We have been further advised that the American Automobile Association (AAA), which uses diamonds rather than stars, rates the Willard InterContinental as four diamonds.

The overall cost, including accommodation for the travelling party (including ministerial staff and Department officers) was AUD57,451.72.