

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Additional Estimates Hearing – May 2012**  
**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:** Prime Minister's discussion with the Governor-General

**Senator:** Ronaldson

**Question reference number:** PM70

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 6 July 2012

**Number of Pages:** 1

**Senator RONALDSON:** I understand that, Mr Brady, and it may well be that it was the Prime Minister who was talking to the Governor-General during that minute's silence. I would note raise it except that there are four people who were prepared to put their names to this, and I think that elevates this matter. Can you take that on notice? If indeed it was the Prime Minister who was talking to the Governor-General, that can be part of your explanation as well. It may be the Governor-General did not respond to the Prime Minister talking during that minute of silence, but there are four people, all of whom have been prepared to put their names to this article. I will quote from the article:

The *NT News* put call –

I presume that means called –

into the offices of both the Governor-General and Prime Minister but received no response.

Could you investigate?

**Answer:**

The brief exchange between the Governor-General and the Prime Minister did not occur during a formal minute's silence, but rather during an unplanned pause in the proceedings awaiting the fly-over. The formal minute's silence was observed, as per the official order of arrangements, following the Last Post and before the Rouse.

The Office has no record of contact from the *NT News* regarding this matter.