

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio
Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General
Consideration of Supplementary Estimates, 20 November 2002

Hansard Page 112

Senator Faulkner asked whether the Governor-General was attending a high proportion of religious functions.

Attached is a list of 83 religious or related functions attended by the Governor-General since his appointment on 29 June 2001. It does not include his regular personal Sunday worship or contacts with former colleagues or acquaintances of a purely personal nature.

It is not possible to form a valid conclusion as to whether this is disproportionately high. The listed items represent only some 7.5 per cent of the items on overall list of functions from which they are drawn. Many of the items, for example the Anzac and Remembrance Day Services, and the services at the commencement of the legal and parliamentary years have been routinely attended by successive Governors-General. It is also the case that some of the items listed, for example the calls made by significant overseas religious leaders, have resulted from invitations or requests which may not have been made of Dr Hollingworth's predecessors, but to which it has been entirely appropriate for the Governor-General to agree.

It is not practical to make any valid comparison with the extent to which Dr Hollingworth's predecessors may have attended functions related to their legal, parliamentary, diplomatic or military backgrounds.

Martin Bonsey
Official Secretary
5 February 2003

ATTACHMENT

As Commander-in-Chief, attends the Funeral Service of the late Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot KBE AO RAN (Rtd), former Chief of the Defence Force	120701	Canberra
Delivers keynote address at the 40 th Anniversary Dinner for PALMS	140701	Sydney
Official opening ceremony of the John Main Seminar	150701	Sydney
Thanksgiving Service to mark the Centenary of the Presbyterian Church of Australia at St Andrew's	290701	Canberra
Receives His Eminence Cardinal Jean Marie Lustiger (Archbishop of Notre Dame, Paris)	090801	Admiralty House
Thanksgiving Service – St John's College Chapel, University of Queensland (20 th Anniversary of Warden)	190801	Brisbane
Delivers the 23 rd Annual Daniel Mannix Memorial Lecture, Newman College, University of Melbourne	040901	Melbourne
Officially opens 2001 Education Week in Newcastle District celebrating the Centenary of Federation at Christ Church Cathedral	100901	Newcastle
Delivers an address at an evening Ecumenical and Inter-faith Service for victims and families affected by the tragedy in the USA	120901	Canberra
Reads first lesson at the Welcome Service for the 16 th National Prayer Breakfast Church Service (as guest of the Australian Parliamentary Christian Fellowship)	160901	Canberra
Reads first lesson at the Annual Service of Rededication for St John Ambulance Australia (ACT)	160901	Canberra
Delivers keynote address at the National Prayer Breakfast (as guest of the Australian Parliamentary Christian Fellowship)	170901	Canberra
Hosts a Dinner for Heads of Churches and other Faith Communities	190901	Government House
Receives the Right Reverend George Browning (Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn)	041001	Government House
Reads first lesson and lays a wreath at the Memorial Service at Merchant Navy War Memorial, Kings Park in honour of those who lost their lives	141001	Canberra
Service to mark the Centenary of Federation at the Wesley Uniting Church, Kent Town	211001	Adelaide
Delivers an address at the South Australian Heads of Christian Churches Community Leaders Breakfast	221001	Adelaide
Lays a wreath at the Stone of Remembrance and poppies on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the United Nations Day Service	241001	Canberra
Attends a Dinner in honour of Reverend David Gill to mark his retirement as General Secretary, National Council of Churches	021101	Sydney
Attends the 50 th Anniversary Seafarers' Service, St Paul's Cathedral	041101	Melbourne
Delivers an address and reads a lesson at the Ecumenical Service marking the Australian Defence Force Deployment to the 'War on Terrorism', St Mary's Catholic Cathedral	081101	Perth
Delivers the Remembrance Day address, lays flowers at the Stone of Remembrance and on the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier, Australian War Memorial	111101	Canberra
Receives Mr David Cantwell (General Manager, Anglican Development Investment Fund), the Right Reverend Richard Appleby (Administrator of the Diocese of Brisbane), the Right Reverend Clyde Wood (Bishop of North Queensland and Acting Metropolitan of the Province of Queensland), and members of the Board of Djarragun College	121101	Cairns
Delivers an address at a luncheon for the 'retired, recycled and recharged' clergy living in Canberra	151101	Canberra
Officially opens the Centenary of Federation Fair at St John's Church, Reid	171101	Canberra
Delivers an address at a Dinner for the Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla	171101	Canberra

Reads first lesson at the Ecumenical Service: <i>Bathurst Churches Celebration for Federation Sunday</i>	181101	Bathurst, NSW
Officially opens the Exhibition 'O Soul O Spirit O Fire', celebrating 50 years of the Blake Prize for Religious Art, Queensland University of Technology	221101	Queensland
Receives Bishop Phillip Aspinal (Archbishop-elect of Brisbane) and wife Mrs Christa Aspinal	241101	Adelaide
Delivers an address at the South Australian Centenary of Federation Interfaith Service, St Peter's Cathedral	251101	Adelaide
Officially opens the Blake Prize for Religious Art Exhibition, National Trust, S H Ervin Gallery	291101	Sydney
Delivers an address at a Thanksgiving Service, Wesley Mission Annual Staff Dinner	021201	Sydney
Delivers a Christmas address and officially lights the National Christmas Tree at the 2001 National Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols by Candlelight Concert	081201	Canberra
Reads first lesson, delivers the dedication address and unveils a commemorative plaque at a Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication for the Extended Nave and Choir Gallery, St Paul's Anglican Church, Manuka	091201	Canberra
Reads third lesson at the Trinity College Carols Service	091201	Melbourne
Officially opens the workshop <i>Creation and Complexity: Interdisciplinary Issues in Science and Religion</i> , and launches the book <i>Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Cosmology and Biological Evolution</i> , Australian National University	250102	Canberra
Delivers an address at "Theologies of Suffering" meeting at St John the Baptist Church, Reid	290102	Canberra
Delivers an address at a Service to celebrate the Commencement of the 2002 Law Year, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Forrest	040202	Canberra
Reads first lesson at a Service to mark the Opening of the 40 th Commonwealth Parliament, St Paul's Anglican Church, Manuka	120202	Canberra
As Chancellor of the Order, reads the first lesson at the Order of Australia Association Divine Service, the Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist	170202	Brisbane
As representative of Her Majesty The Queen, attends the State Funeral of the late Sir Roden Cutler VC AK KCMG KCVO CBE, (former Governor of NSW) at St Andrew's Anglican Cathedral	280202	Sydney
Service for the Collation of Chaplain The Reverend Len Eacott RFD as Archdeacon to the Army, Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul, Royal Military College, Duntroon	010302	Canberra
Public address by Father Laurence Freeman OSB, Director – World Community for Christian Meditation: 'The New Holiness, Meditation and Spirituality of our Times', City Uniting Church	140302	Canberra
Annual Bishop's Dinner, St Mary in the Valley Anglican Parish of South Tuggeranong	050402	Canberra
Thanksgiving Service for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, St Andrew's Cathedral	090402	Sydney
Hosts a reception for members attending the Royal Australian Air Force Chaplain's Conference 2002	100402	Government House
Ceremony for the Induction of the Reverend Dr Scott Cowdell as Rector of St Paul's Anglican Parish	110402	Canberra
Memorial Service for HRH the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon at Westminster Abbey	190402	London
Dawn Service at Anzac Cove, French Memorial Service, Commonwealth Memorial Service, Australian Memorial Service at Lone Pine, and New Zealand Memorial Service at Chunuk Bair (also two secular Turkish related ceremonies)	250402	Gallipoli
ANZAC Memorial Services at Villers-Bretonneux	270402	France
ANZAC Memorial Services at Bullecourt	270402	France
Delivers an address-in-reply and lays a wreath at the Commemorative Service to the mark the 60 th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, Australian-American Memorial, Field Marshall Sir Thomas Blamey Square, Russell	030502	Canberra
Officially opens the new Chapel at the Australian Centre of Christianity and Culture	180502	Canberra

State Funeral Service for the late Mr Alec William Campbell (The last Anzac)	240502	Hobart
Reads first lesson at a Service of Dedication of the Australian Capital Territory Association of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Anzac Chapel of St Paul, Duntroon	260502	Canberra
Reads first lesson at an Ecumenical Service to commemorate Sorry Day at the Australian Centre for Culture and Christianity	260502	Canberra
Memorial Service for the Right Honourable Sir John Gorton GCMG AC CH	310502	Sydney
Thanksgiving Service in support of the Bush Ministry Fund as part of the Year of the Outback celebrations	020602	Jimbour
Hosts a reception for members of the Bible Society in Australia	180602	Government House
Reads the first lesson at a Church Service for the Annual National Conference of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, St Andrew's Cathedral	230602	Sydney
Delivers an address at the Anglicare 'A Winter's Tale' Luncheon	280602	Sydney
Reads a lesson at a Service commemorating Reserve Forces Day, Australian War Memorial	300602	Canberra
Ceremony to celebrate the Centenary of Garrison Church, Christchurch Cathedral	090702	Darwin
A Festal Choral Evensong celebrating the 125 th Anniversary of Trinity College Theological School, St James' Church	210702	Sydney
Trinity College Theological School Anniversary Dinner	210702	Sydney
Unveils a plaque to commemorate the 200 th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Parish of the Cathedral Church of St John	280702	Sydney
Canberra Men's Prayer Breakfast	010802	Canberra
Anglican Diocese of Bendigo Centenary Dinner	020802	Bendigo
Delivers an address and lays a wreath at a Memorial Service to mark the 60 th Anniversary of the loss of HMAS Canberra, HMAS Canberra Memorial, King's Park	090802	Canberra
Addresses the Prayer, Nations and Government Conference, Parliament House	210802	Canberra
Reads the first lesson and lights a candle in memory of the victims, at a National Remembrance Service marking the Anniversary of 11 September 2001, St Christopher's Cathedral	110902	Canberra
Leads the Invocation at the Celebration of St Michael and All Angels incorporating a Service of Thanksgiving for the 50 th Anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen's Accession to the Throne, St Paul's Cathedral	290902	Canberra
Delivers an opening address at the 2 nd National Gospel Happening, ANU Arts Centre	041002	Canberra
Reads first lesson at a National Memorial Service for victims of the terrorist attacks in Bali, Parliament House	241002	Canberra
Prayer Breakfast at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture	311002	Canberra
Officially opens and unveils a commemorative plaque at the Radford College Chapel	011102	Canberra
Delivers an address – 'Ministry – A Perspective' at the Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul, Duntroon	031102	Canberra
Lays flowers at the Stone of Remembrance and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the 2002 Remembrance Day Ceremony, Australian War Memorial	111102	Canberra
Prayer Breakfast at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture	141102	Canberra
Receives His Beatitude Gregory the Third Laham (Patriarch of Greek Melkite Church of Antioch and of all the East, Alexandria and Jerusalem), the Most Reverend Issam Darwich (Bishop of the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand), the Most Reverend Salim Gazal and the Most Reverend Yohanna John Mansour (Patriarchal Vicars), the Very Reverend Father Abdallah El Hamdieh (Vicar General), Mr David Scarf and Mr Frank Chahoud (Directors, Melkite Catholic Eparchy Council)	141102	Government House
Receives His Holiness Karekin II (Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians), His Eminence Archbishop Aghan	261102	Melbourne

Baliozian (Primate of the Armenian Church of Australia), Reverend Edward Mirzakhanyan and Professor Sergey Ambartsumian (Delegates from Armenia), and Mr Apraham Haroutyunian (Councillor, Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia)		
Receives His Holiness Pope Shenouda III (Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark His Holiness), His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy (Secretary of the Holy Synod), Bishop Suriel (Bishop of Melbourne), Bishop Daniel (Bishop of Sydney), Bishop Paula (Diocese of Tanta, Egypt), Bishop Saropamon (Abbot of St Bishoy Monastery, Egypt) and Bishop Isozorus (Abbot of Syrian Monastery, Egypt)	061202	Government House
Australia Day Church Service, St Paul's Manuka	260103	Canberra
Ecumenical Church Service to mark the commencement of the 2003 Legal Year, St John the Baptist Church	030203	Canberra
Ecumenical Service to mark the commencement of the Parliamentary Year, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture	040203	Canberra