

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-12

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: Internal policies for the Council for the Order of Australia

Senator: RONALDSON

Question reference number: PM116

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA, p.46, 17 October

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of Pages: 1

Question:

Senator RONALDSON: Who drafted the original policy guidelines or criteria working manuals – do you know?

Mr Prendergast: I am sorry, I would have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

The Order of Australia was instituted by Her Majesty The Queen in 1975, on the advice of the Australian Prime Minister, the Honourable E G Whitlam. Her Majesty, as Sovereign Head of the Order of Australia, signed the Letters Patent on 14 February 1975 establishing the Order as “an Australian society of honour for the purpose of according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or for meritorious service”. This also established the Constitution of the Order of Australia, which was drafted by the Department of State responsible for Australian honours policy (in 1974-75 the Department of the Special Minister of State; currently the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet). The associated Ordinances are usually prepared in consultation with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet by the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.