

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates Hearing – October 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: Approval of Mr Fraser's leave

Senator: Ronaldson

Question reference number: PM50

Type of Question: FPA, p.58, 15 October 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012

Number of Pages: 1

Senator RONALDSON: The program was released in October-November last year—and you are saying the leave was approved prior to that?

Ms Baker: It was certainly towards the end of last year but it could well have been after the schedule. We would have to take that on notice and check for you.

Senator RONALDSON: So, Mr Brady, why would you tell me that it was approved prior to that, and that that was the reason Mr Fraser is not here?

Mr Brady: That was my understanding. I will check.

Answer:

This question was answered in part in Hansard FPA, p.62-63, 15 October 2012.

Mr Brady has discussed professional and personal development opportunities with Mr Fraser on numerous occasions since 2009. This led to discussions in October/November 2011 about Mr Fraser undertaking an executive MBA program (at his own expense). Formal approval for necessary leave associated with undertaking the University of Sydney Global Executive MBA was granted in December 2011. The dates for the overseas module in India from 6-19 October 2012 were confirmed by the University of Sydney in February 2012. The module in India is a compulsory unit of study towards the Degree. Leave for the unit was granted in the Aurion HR system in August 2012. Acting arrangements were put in place to cover Mr Fraser's absence in line with normal procedures.