

**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:** Speeches written during Jubilee

**Senator:** Ronaldson

**Question reference number:** PM53

**Type of Question:** FPA, p.62, 15 October 2012

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

**Number of Pages:** 2

**Senator RONALDSON:** You might want to take this on notice. What speeches did Ms O'Grady write for the Governor-General during the jubilee process, for example?

**Mr Brady:** We will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Governor-General's visit to London for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations was preceded by a State Visit to Cyprus. Ms O'Grady wrote two speeches for the Governor-General during this trip.

Ms O'Grady also spent time with the Governor-General discussing and working on the forward program of official engagements and forthcoming speech requirements (including developing frameworks as required).

Ms O'Grady was involved with program and briefing arrangements for this visit, and attended most of the meetings and functions, including two meetings on women's issues. Ms O'Grady liaised with posts and other contacts and provided practical assistance with aspects of the program as well as support to the Governor-General.

In relation to the Brunei visit, Ms O'Grady assisted with briefing requirements, drafted one speech, and attended all of the meetings and functions in the program, including one meeting on women's issues. Ms O'Grady also spent time with the Governor-General discussing and working on the forward program of official engagements and forthcoming speech requirements.

Staff that travel with the Governor-General on any occasion do so to give a critical mass of skills and experience that may be required to manage diverse visit arrangements, as well as continuity of Office business during the Governor-General's absence. On both occasions it was the Governor-General's wish that Ms O'Grady accompany her.