

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Additional Estimates – February 2016**  
**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:** Resignation of Ministers

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** 1

**Type of Question:** Hearing

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 1 April 2016

**Number of Pages:** 1

**Senator WONG:** I am trying to use non-pejorative words. People are given an opportunity to resign and it is extremely unusual for a revocation in the way that you describe, from my recollection—I am not the Governor-General. I would invite you to perhaps inform yourself about past procedure.

**Mr Fraser:** I would be very happy to take that on notice.

**Senator WONG:** No, it is not the entire ministry. Why do you keep saying 'entire ministry retiring en masse'? There was a reshuffle which required some people to leave and some people were promoted. It is not the reallocation of a portfolio; it is people who are no longer part of the executive who were. So if we have been operating under a misapprehension, that is what I am talking about. I am not talking about someone getting another bit to a portfolio; I am talking about somebody who was in the executive who no longer is.

I invite you to check with your office and your colleagues and tell me whether or not it is the usual practice in such circumstances for ministers to resign.

**Answer:**

The OOSGG has reviewed its records over the last 20 years and advise that it is not unusual for the appointments of ministers to be revoked in the manner and circumstances described.