

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** Portfolio Budget Statement

**Senator:** Wong, Penny

**Question reference number:** 222

**Type of question:** FPA 22 February 2016, Page 11

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator WONG: Are you able to get—it would just save me some work—2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 so I can get a sense of that line item? Can you tell me why the budget increases? Is that just an indexation or is there an augmentation over and above that?

...

Ms McIntyre: There is not any specific augmentation.

Senator WONG: What does that mean?

Ms McIntyre: It will just be we have predicted in terms of guests-of-government visits for those years and we often get supplemented if there is a large royal visit given the costs associated with that.

Senator WONG: So you do not have a base that you then index? Do you build it from the ground up like X number of guests-of-government visits, that kind of thing?

Ms McIntyre: Yes, because if there is something like G20 you get a lot of bilaterals either side.

Senator WONG: The G20 has been. So how many guests-of-government visits are assumed in this line item?

Ms McIntyre: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that detail.

Senator WONG: How many were assumed in the years I have asked for as well?

Ms McIntyre: Certainly for G20, we had some assumptions around how many bilaterals there would be both pre and post.

Senator WONG: What I am trying to get is a sense of how this has been constructed over the last few years and the years going ahead. Are you able to take that on notice?

**Answer:**

The funding allocated to the State Occasions and Official Visits Programme covers the costs of guest- of- government visits, private and transit visits, coordination of significant events, the Prime Minister’s overseas travel, State Funerals and Memorial Services, and State occasions. As such, the expected number of Official Visits in a year is not the only factor in the construction of budget allocation.

Baseline funding for this programme is estimated based on historical results. If significant changes are expected in a financial year for the State Occasions and Official Visits programme, additional funding is sought.

**Table 1:**

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure on State Occasions and Official Visits (\$'000)</b>	<b>Number of Actual Official Visits</b>
<b>2011-12</b>	\$6,335	32
<b>2012-13</b>	\$3,888	39
<b>2013-14</b>	\$3,152	13

In 2011-12 additional funding was sought and allocated for a Royal Visit.

The budget for the 2015-16 and forward estimates is outlined in Table 2 below. Increases are due to indexation applied to the forward years.

**Table 2:**

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Budget Expenditure on State Occasions and Official Visits (\$'000)</b>
<b>2015-16</b>	\$3,573 (revised budget)
<b>2016-17</b>	\$3,644 (forward estimate)
<b>2017-18</b>	\$3,736 (forward estimate)
<b>2018-19</b>	\$3,821 (forward estimate)