

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Lodge and Kirribilli functions – previous Prime Ministers

Senator: Smith, Dean; McKenzie, Bridget; Kitching, Kimberley

Question reference number: 27

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- 1) Senator SMITH: Would you have details about the 20 July event, hosted, again, by Julia Gillard, which included union officials for dinner at The Lodge, which was reported by Andrew Tillett at The West Australian under the headline 'Key MPs threaten early poll'?

Ms Ganly: I would have to take that on notice to see if that information is on the public record.

- 2) Senator SMITH: And I am assuming you will test for me whether the 10 May event in 2010, when former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd hosted Labor caucus drinks and dinner at The Lodge, which was reported in The Herald Sun in an article titled 'Prime Minister tries to pacify worried caucus' on 8 May 2010—

Ms Ganly: Yes, I will have a look at all three of those to see which ones are available and how they were covered and reported.

- 3) Senator McKENZIE: While you are—it seems that this is a tradition and it stands way before—could you also look at Prime Minister Hawke's entertainment at Kirribilli?

Ms Ganly: I will have a look and see whether we still have those records. But certainly none of the events, or this event, are out of the norm for what has been done for successive governments. That is one of the things—any of the costs that are being paid from official establishments. It is one of our checks to make sure that it is value for money, and that certainly is something we do for whatever government of the day is in place.

- 4) Senator KITCHING: If we are going to do former Prime Minister Hawke, I feel that we should do former Prime Minister Howard as well.

Answer:

- 1) The Department does not hold any information on the 20 July event hosted by the Hon. Julia Gillard AC.
- 2) The May 2010 event was a private event by the Hon. Kevin Rudd. No other information about the event is held by the Department.
- 3 & 4) Given the passage of time, information relating to former Prime Ministers Hawke and Howard's entertainment at Kirribilli is not readily available. To provide this information would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.