

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Portrait of Her Majesty The Queen in PMO

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 83

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

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Question:

1. Is William Dargie's 'wattle painting' of Her Majesty The Queen, part of the collection of the National Museum of Australia (NMA), hanging in the Office of the Prime Minister?
2. How was the painting sourced from the NMA?
3. On what date was the painting first sought from the NMA?
4. Who made the request?
5. On what date was the painting hung in the Office of the Prime Minister?

Answer:

1. William Dargie's second replica painting is hanging in the Prime Minister's office.
2. The Parliament House art collection curator suggested that the Prime Minister might like to source a portrait of The Queen from the National Museum of Australia as she thought their Dargie replica was not on public display and in storage. This suggestion was made to the Prime Minister because the only available portraits of The Queen in a similar style from the Parliament House collection were on public display. The Parliament House curator offered to take a portrait off public display for display in the Prime Minister's reception but the Prime Minister didn't want to deny the public access to prominent paintings so he declined the offer.
3. The painting was sought in September 2013.
4. The Prime Minister's Chief of Staff made the initial enquiry with the National Museum at the request of the Prime Minister to see if the Museum did in fact have the painting in storage and were willing to loan it to the Prime Minister. The contact was made based on advice from the Parliament House curator who provided the contact name and details for the National Museum of Australia. After the initial contact, the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff handed over all contact between Parliament House and the National Museum to the Parliament House Art Collection Curator.

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5. September 2013.