

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2015

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Portraits
Question: 39
Hansard Reference p 19, 24; 19 October 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Senator SMITH: Are you aware of any suggestions that have been made about putting the portraits of former Prime Ministers and former Governor-Generals that are not on public display on display at the Museum for Australian Democracy?

The President: I am not aware of that.

Dr Heriot: I understand we may have had a request for some prime ministerial portraits that are not the national Historic Memorials Collection portraits for loan, but I am afraid I will have to take that on notice.

Senator SMITH: If you could take that on notice, and I would be keen to know—

Dr Heriot: But that is not the one that we have hung.

Senator SMITH: that is right, yes—what portraits of former Governor-Generals and former Prime Ministers are held but not on display.

Dr Heriot: I will take that on notice.

Answer

DPS is not aware of any suggestions regarding the possible public display of portraits from the Parliament House Art Collection of former Prime Ministers and former Governors-General at the Museum of Australian Democracy.

Currently there are seven (7) official portraits and one (1) unofficial portrait of former Governors-General in storage and not on display. They are:

William McInnes, *The Rt. Hon Sir Ronald Craufurd Munro Ferguson, Viscount Novar of Reith*, c.1918

John Longstaff, *The Rt. Hon Henry William Forster, Forster GCMG*, 1925

John Longstaff, *The Rt. Hon. Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs GCB GCMG*, 1936

Rex Bramleigh, *The Rt. Hon William Shepherd Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil GCMG MC QC*, 1962-1964

Bill Leak, *The Hon William George Hayden AC*, 1993

Robert Hannaford, *The Hon Sir William Patrick Deane AC KBE*, 2001

Peter Churcher, *The Right Reverend Dr Peter John Hollingworth AC OBE*, 2003

Sam Fullbrook, *Sir John Kerr*, 1977-1978 (unofficial portrait – not accepted by the Historic Memorials Committee)

The remaining eighteen (18) portraits of former Governors-General are on display in various locations, seven are on loan to Government House, five are on loan to Admiralty House, four are on display in Parliament House suites, one is on display in the Marble Foyer Cabinets and the portrait of the most recent Governor-General is on public display on the first floor of Members' Hall.

Currently there are two portraits of former Prime Ministers in storage and not on display. Both of these portraits are considered 'unofficial' as neither was accepted into the Historic Memorials Collection.

They are:

Bryan Westwood, *The Rt. Hon Malcolm Fraser*, 1983

George Lambert, *The Rt. Hon George H Reid KC*, 1913-1914

All 25 official portraits of Prime Ministers from the Historic Memorials Collection are currently on display within Parliament House in first floor Members' Hall and in the foyer of the Main Committee Room.