

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2005-2006, 13 February 2006

Question: PM 57

Outcome 1, Output 4.5

Topic: Cultural loans to official establishments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. Are any artworks or items from the National Gallery of Australia, the joint house committee or the Australiana Fund currently on loan to either of the PM's official residences?

Answer 1:

Consistent with the practices of previous Prime Ministers there are pieces of artwork and other objects, on loan from the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) and The Australiana Fund, at The Lodge and Kirribilli House.

2. If so, please provide a complete list of these objects and artworks together with an indication of the source of the loan the value of each item and the duration of the loan.

Answer 2:

The details sought in this question are provided in Attachment A. It should be noted that The Australiana Fund's acquisitions are financed from its own resources and through direct public participation in the form of private and corporate donations. The Commonwealth does not provide any funding for Fund acquisitions. All values listed are insured values.

3. Are any artworks or items from the National Gallery of Australia, the joint house committee or the Australiana Fund currently on loan to the Governor-General's residences?

4. If so, please provide a complete list of these objects and artworks together with an indication of the source of the loan, the value of each item and the duration of the loan.

Answer 3-4:

The parts of the Senator's question which refer to the Governor-General's residences have been referred to the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General for response.

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5. Does PM&C provide insurance for any or all of this material or do you rely on the Government's own re-insurance policy?

Answer 5:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has insurance cover for the loans from the NGA and The Australiana Fund.

6. Are all items on loan hung or displayed in climate controlled space?

7. How often are the public and private spaces in the residences where loaned items are displayed monitored with thermo-hydrographs to determine changes in humidity?

8. How often are these spaces tested to determine the 'lux' levels of light?

9. Do the residences where loaned items are displayed conform to recommended light levels in all spaces where items are hung or displayed?

10. Who undertakes these assessments?

11. How often is such monitoring carried out?

12. Please provide copies of thermo-hydrograph and light readings for both The Lodge and Kirribilli House?

Answer 6-12:

The placement of pieces on loan from The Australiana Fund is agreed between the Department and the Fund. Consideration is given to the environmental conditions at this time. The Fund's Fine Arts Adviser undertakes yearly audits to confirm the presence and condition of their pieces, but the above tests are not completed.

All items on loan from the NGA are delivered and placed by gallery staff. In relation to loans from the NGA, detailed assessments were made of all official establishments in the 1980s. The environmental conditions continue to be monitored on a regular basis, generally during annual inspections. More detailed monitoring may be undertaken if major changes in conditions occur or if works are to be moved to areas not previously assessed.

NGA staff carry out annual checks of works of art in all official establishments. In these checks the actual condition of the works of art are monitored with the condition of the works compared to previous detailed condition reports. Any changes caused by environmental conditions (such as distortion, paint instability, etc) would be observed during these checks.

All areas used to display works of art have had light readings previously recorded and a check of light levels is taken during the NGA annual condition checks.

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The residences do not conform to the recommended light levels in all spaces. Due to the nature of the houses where these works are displayed there are varying amounts of sunlight entering the rooms, which are determined by seasonal variation. These conditions can be partially controlled by drawing curtains/blinds and positioning works away from higher light areas. The environmental conditions are considered when selecting works appropriate for display in official establishments and in discussions regarding the positioning of the works.

National Gallery of Australia staff undertake the assessments and monitoring is undertaken when works of art on loan are changed and during the annual assessment and stocktake.

The NGA does not have recent copies of readings from The Lodge nor Kirribilli House. Readings were taken in the 1980's.

13. Does the office of the Prime Minister have a formal policy on the display and safeguarding of paintings and other heritage items in the official residences? Please provide a copy of it.

Answer 13:

No.

14. Has any item or painting on loan to the PM or Governor-General been damaged in the past five years? If so, provide details.

Answer 14:

Gothic cabinet	Broken lock was repaired by conservator (April 2001)
China plate	Broken and repaired (May 2002)
Silver salts and salt and pepper shakers	Minor repair work undertaken (August 2002)
Silver jewellery box	Water damage repaired by conservator (August 2003)
Tasmanian musk and huon pine table	Stain repaired (November 2003)
Fisher freedom casket	Small piece detached during cleaning and repair work was undertaken (August 2004)
Dining table	Small stain repaired (November 2004)
Console table	Damaged in transit, repaired by conservator (November 2004)

The part of the question which refers to the Governor-General's residences has been referred to the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General for response.

15. Has anything on loan to the PM or Governor-General been stolen in the past five years? If so, provide details.

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Answer 15:

No items on loan to The Lodge or Kirribilli House have been stolen in the last five years. The part of the question which refers to the Governor-General's residences has been referred to the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General for response.

16. Who chooses the items to be loaned from the Joint House Department or the NGA? Is it the PM himself or are decisions made on his behalf?

Answer 16:

Items on loan from the NGA are chosen in consultation with the Prime Minister of the day. The Department does not have a loan arrangement with any of the Parliamentary Departments.

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ATTACHMENT A

Items on loan to The Lodge and Kirribilli House from The Australiana Fund.

All items are on indefinite loan.

Description	Insured Value \$
Cedar tea table	5,000
Cedar campaign chest	32,000
Kangaroo sculpture	7,000
Small display cabinet	700
Music canterbury	15,000
Side table	6,000
Kangaroo mantel clock	6,000
Piano stool	3,000
Bust of Edmund Barton	10,000
Pair of china plates	700
Sculpture of Sir Henry Parkes	10,000
Birthday book	4,500
Cigarette case	750
Sofa table	40,000
Side table	16,000
Casket, silver	7,500
Mantle clock	2,600
Carved fire screen	16,000
Book: <i>Changi Days: The Prisoner as Poet</i>	120
Trowel, silver plated	1,200
Hot water kettle	20,000
Tea service	11,000
Twin pedestal sideboard	17,000
Whatnot	3,000
Epergne	90,000
Candelabra	6,000
Print: <i>Hakea</i> by Helen Ogilvie	1,850
Print: <i>Banksia</i> by Helen Ogilvie	1,850
Silver salver	25,000
Jug, ceramic likeness of Lord Bruce	1,400
Fruit bowl	4,000
12 pottery vases	800

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Book: <i>Australian Furniture: Pictorial History and Dictionary 1788-1938</i>	2,425
Low boy	6,500
Dressing table and stool	for set
Wardrobe	
Bed	
Bookcase	
Occasional table	
Folding towel rail	
Wine table	2,000
Drawing Room stool	6,500
Serpentine fronted hall table	8,500
Painting: <i>Bluegum</i> by Ellis Rowan	18,400
Painting: <i>Pimelia</i> by Ellis Rowan	18,400
Rug	5,000
Folding tray	750
Painting: <i>Castle Hill</i> by Jeff Rigby	2,300
Sculpture: Inge King <i>Moonbird</i>	175,000
Hall chair	4,500
Hallstand	45,000
Staffordshire oval plaque of Captain James Cook	4,000
Gothic pedestal	2,400
Print: <i>Old Cottage Elizabeth Street</i> by Sidney Ure Smith	1,380
Longcase regulator clock	27,000
Games table	20,000
Painting: <i>Garden Palace and Gardens</i>	46,500
Pair of hall chairs	18,000
Console table	18,000
Vase decorated with gum nuts	4,500
Compote with gum leaf decoration	10,000
Print: <i>A Primrose from England</i> by JR Dickersee	6,900
Pair of gothic style bookcases	300,000
Print: <i>News from Australia</i> by George Baxter	2,300
Print: <i>News from Home</i> by George Baxter	2,300
Painting: <i>Lady by a Creek</i> by Sidney Long	13,800
Kauri pine oval occasional table	4,000
Games table	5,500
Set of 12 Royal Worcester plates	15,000

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Inkwell Trophy 8 mounted emu eggs Emu egg inkwell Clock with mounted emu egg Inkwell with mounted emu egg Inkwell with emu egg on platform Support for an emu egg Ewer in the form of an emu egg	60,000 for set
Gothic style mirror	8,500
Print: <i>View of Sydney and the Harbour from Mossman's Bay</i> by C Troedel	6,900
Hanging corner cupboard	15,000
Pair of Staffordshire figures of William Smith O'Brien and his wife	15,000
Pair of Staffordshire figures of Sir John and Lady Franklin	7,000
Vase decorated with kangaroos	10,000
Comport	7,500
Staffordshire figure of Frank Gardiner	6,000
Sunderland lustre jug	4,000
Staffordshire figure of Captain James Cook	8,000
Staffordshire Figure of the Duke of Edinburgh	2,500
Vase painted with Australian native fuchsia decoration	6,000
Books: <i>The Coinage of Colonial Australia</i> by Andrew Crellin	150 (2 copies)
Print: <i>Kirribilli House</i> by Lionel Lindsay	115
Card table	32,000
Work table	17,000
Portrait medallion of Captain James Cook RN	17,500
Pair of Wedgwood oval portrait medallions of Sir Joseph and Lady Banks	6,000
Wedgwood oval portrait of Captain James Cook	3,000
Tasmanian musk and huon pine occasional table	12,500
Painting: <i>Landscape</i> by Sidney Long	34,500
Gilt handbell	350
Jewellery box	2,500
Campagna shaped urn	4,500
Claret jug	6,000
Tankard	3,000
Tea service	5,000
Set of 10 dining chairs	50,000
Set of 10 reproduction matching dining chairs	15,000
Dining room table	35,000
Plaster: <i>Portrait Medallion of James Macarthur</i> by Thomas Woolner	7,500
Portrait medallion of Queen Victoria	7,000

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2 pairs of salts	20,000
Library table	12,000
Gothic style bookcase	11,000
Tea table	9,500
Breakfront bookcase	20,000
Chair with arms	5,500
Portable writing box	1,600
Bookcase	80,000
Pair of postulant stools	1,800
Library chair	9,000
Chest of drawers	17,000
Painting: <i>Flannel Flowers</i> by Paul Jones	18,400
Framed mirror	1,700
Chest of drawers	11,000
Painting: <i>Renfrew Park, Jerringong</i> by Cedric Flower	1,850
Drawing: <i>Woodside Pastoral</i> by Hans Heysen	13,800
Painting: <i>Sydney Harbour</i> by Cedric Flower	5,750

Items on loan from the National Gallery of Australia.

All items are on loan until 24 February 2008 when the current contract expires.

Description	Insured Value \$
Chest of drawers	2,400
<i>Hauling rails for a fence, Mount Macedon</i> by Frederick McCubbin	750,000
Fluted tea urn	1,500
<i>Evening landscape</i> by David Reid	17,500
<i>The saplings</i> by Hans Heysen	190,000
<i>Cloud Shadows, Kangaroo Valley</i> by Rubery Bennett	13,500
<i>Reverie, (Portrait of Elsa Thomson)</i> by Max Meldrum	35,000
Bellows	400
<i>Summer night</i> by Rupert Bunny	600,000
<i>Cremorne</i> by Arthur Streeton	450,000
<i>Haystack with sheep</i> by Arthur Boyd	70,000
Circular table	11,000
<i>Winter sunshine, Balmoral</i> by Percy Leason	5,000
<i>Kitchen garden, St Cere, France</i> by Dorothy Thornhill	15,000
<i>Lyndra at the pool (Artist's wife near the Blue Pool, Dorset)</i> by Derwent Lees	12,500
<i>Banksia</i> by Margaret Preston	165,000
<i>Woman in a brown hat: Portrait of the artist's wife</i> by Rupert Bunny	70,000

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Set of pans	1,100
<i>Windsor farmyard</i> by Percy Lindsay	10,000
<i>Still life, pears</i> by Adelaide Perry	20,000
<i>Flower piece</i> by George Bell	10,000
<i>Flower piece, flowers and fruit</i> by Margaret Preston	100,000
<i>Still life with dragon dog</i> by Dorothy Thornhill	1,500
<i>Afternoon: Sydney Harbour from Clifton Gardens</i> by James Randalph Jackson	40,000
<i>The Harbour from Kurraba</i> by Arthur Streeton	120,000