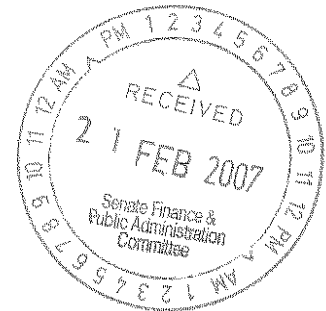




15 February 2007

Senator Brett Mason
Chairman
Senate Standing Committee on Finance
and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator Mason

At the public hearing of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration held on Monday 12 February 2007, Senator Faulkner asked me some questions concerning the Governor-General's role with *Future Directions International* (FDI), a fully accredited, not-for-profit research institute.

At the hearing, I explained that the Governor-General is Patron of FDI, as he is for around 200 other organisations.

I also indicated that the Governor-General is assiduous in endeavouring to ensure that he does not become involved in issues of political controversy. As with each of the organisations of which the Governor-General is Patron, he takes a close interest in their activities, but he is not involved in their day-to-day management or activities.

In summary, I noted that the Governor-General's relationship with FDI, as with other bodies of which he is Patron, is a very proper one.

I have reflected further on this matter following the Committee hearings, and there is nothing further that I can or would want to add to the statements I have already made, which give the Committee an assurance that the Governor-General's relationship with FDI is an entirely proper one and one which does not have the Governor-General involving himself in the detailed activities of the organisation.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Hazell
Official Secretary to the Governor-General