

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

2006-07 Additional Budget Estimates Hearings

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

QUESTION: PM71

Senator Wong asked:

[The questions asked on cost of support incurred by Dr Peter Hollingworth and expenses of former Governors-General will be responded to by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.]

Please provide a breakdown of the costs of any and all overseas visits by the Governor-General subsequent to those journeys described in response to PM 50 of the 2006-07 Supplementary Budget Hearings. For each journey please indicate, the dates, destinations, number in party, cost of air transport, cost of other transport, description (including name) of accommodation, total cost of accommodation for the party (excluding Their Excellencies), total cost of accommodation for Their Excellencies, meals/drinks and incidentals.

Please refer to question PM 49 from the 2006-07 Supplementary Budget hearings and provide an updated answer to that question for the period since 1 January 2007.

Response:

There have been no official overseas visits since the response to PM50.

Further to the answer to PM 49 from the 2006-07 Supplementary Budget hearings for property related capital work costs for the official residences the following additional costs have been incurred for the period 1 January to 28 February 2007 [note WIP means work-in-progress]:

Capital works – Government House Canberra – design costs for extension of cooling/heating to ground floor of main house \$11,350; construction costs for Honours precinct works to replace inadequate office accommodation, provide meeting room facilities and additional carparking \$1,068,226 (WIP); upgrade of electrical distribution boards to meet Australian standards \$18,182 (WIP); replacement of underground telephone and installation of data cables \$47,263; upgrade of air-conditioning system in Chancery building to overcome air flow deficiencies \$650; upgrade of access road to improve safety and all-weather access \$32,500; underpinning of part of House Manager’s Cottage that was collapsing \$4,653 (WIP); upgrade of external lighting throughout the property to improve security and safety \$5,358(WIP). Admiralty House Sydney - replacement of unsafe pergola and pathway \$13,413; reconstruction of collapsing garden wall \$21,513; design costs for upgrade of fire protection system to improve safety standards \$1,078 (WIP); design costs for refurbishment of ensuite to main bedroom to improve safety and address operational faults \$3,368 (WIP); replacement of unsafe safety railing to Harbour \$45,653 (WIP); upgrade of garages to overcome occupational health and safety issues \$46,582 (WIP).

Further expenditure on maintenance, acquisitions and contract service costs for the official residences for the period 1 January to 28 February 2007 is as follows

Maintenance – buildings \$33,475; grounds \$37,433

Acquisitions – furniture and fittings \$4,666; plant and equipment \$7,004; kitchen equipment \$120; gardening equipment \$1,152

Contracted services – office cleaning \$6,025; sanitary services \$150; waste removal and recycling \$1,447; garden waste removal and recycling \$1,239; pest control \$430.