Question: PM 12, 13 and 14

Outcome 1, Output 4.7

Topic: State Funerals and State Memorial Services

Hansard Page: F&PA 97, 98, 99

Senator Faulkner asked: (PM12) Are there written guidelines? (PM13) You are going to table the convention or guidelines in relation to those who are offered state funerals. You might table, if you do not mind, the guidelines in relation to the costs that are borne by the Commonwealth. (PM14) Is it easy thing to do to show the pattern, let us say, over the past period of years? I do not want to disaggregate it, but I would have thought that the amounts spent on state funerals on an annualised basis would be a comparative easy thing. I was going to suggest that you might indicate the cost borne by the Commonwealth and the number of state funerals that has been granted.

Answer:

At 'Attachment A' are extracts from the Ceremonial Reference Manual relating to state funerals and memorial services. The guidelines include details of who may be accorded a state funeral or memorial service and references to the costs borne by the Commonwealth.

Listed below are the aggregated costs of state funerals and memorial services back to and including 1999. The system of financial accounting and record keeping changed in the department in 1999.

Year	State Funeral	Memorial Service	Cost
1999	5	1	$127,462.30
2000	2	-	$49,917.66
2001	2	4	$113,424.27
2002	1	3	$192,247.65
2003	3	1	$217,889.07
2004	1	-	$34,938.77
2005	3	2	$130,443.12
2006 to date	2	1	$90,374.14

Chapter 1   State Funerals and Memorial Services

Who receives a State Funeral

1.1   Policy on State Funerals and Memorial Services has evolved over the years. No person is entitled by right to a state funeral, but by custom the Prime Minister accords a state funeral to the holders — both former and present — of the following offices:

- Governor-General;

- Prime Minister;

- Executive Councillors;

- Presiding Officers; and

- Chief Justice.

1.2   Also the current[1] leaders and deputy leaders of parties in both houses [2], and heads of diplomatic missions in Australia

1.3   Occasionally, a distinguished Australian outside these categories, whose contribution to Australia (in any field) is considered by the Prime Minister to be worthy of that recognition, can be accorded a State Funeral, e.g. Professor Fred Hollows, Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, Mr Ted Matthews (the last Anzac), Sir Donald Bradman. A Member or Senator of the Commonwealth Parliament who has contributed extraordinarily may be recognised; an example of this would be Neville Bonner, the first Aboriginal Senator.

Prime Minister's Approval

1.4   The Prime Minister has the discretion to offer a State Funeral to the next-of-kin in line with the above guidelines. Therefore, the Prime Minister is to be advised of the death of a person who would normally be accorded a State Funeral (see listing above).....

1.5   In the absence of the Prime Minister, the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department) has the authority to give a decision for the Prime Minister and to make the offer to the next-of-kin on behalf of the Prime Minister.

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[1] Note that Former Leaders and Former Deputy Leaders are not customarily accorded a State Funeral/Memorial Service

[2] Provided that the leaders and deputies are "recognised", i.e., if they are remunerated for that office

Offer and Options

1.6   Senior officers of the Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch make the offer of a State Funeral or Memorial Service to the next-of-kin on behalf of the Prime Minister.

1.7   The family decide between a State Funeral or a Memorial Service. Options available to the family are:

    (a) Public State funeral service and burial or cremation;

    (b) Public State funeral service followed by private burial or cremation;

    (c) Private burial or cremation followed at some later time by a State Memorial Service;

    (d) Private burial or cremation (with costs met by the Government) not followed by a State Memorial Service; or

    (e) decline all offers.

1.8   In the case of a State Funeral or Memorial Service, the Government meets all reasonable funeral costs and provides officials to undertake necessary arrangements.

1.9   If the family declines the offer of a State Funeral, preferring Option D (see above), the Department will offer to meet all reasonable expenses of the private funeral. If a Memorial Service follows, the Department will meet that expense.

Funeral Notice

1.34   ... the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is not responsible for inserting, or paying for a notice of death. This is the family's responsibility.

1.35   The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is responsible for preparing and inserting notification of the funeral or memorial service.

Floral Tributes

1.53   ...a floral arrangement in green and gold tones (cost approx. $150, including delivery) with appropriate card to be attached

1.57   A floral arrangement for the casket is the responsibility of the family. The family chooses and bears the cost of casket flowers.

Order of Service

1.73   Bound copies of the Order of Service are provided only in the case of former and present Governors-General and Prime Ministers.

Initial Planning Meeting

1.77   ...advice...

(h) ... floral tribute is the family's responsibility for choice and costs.

(q) If family want Service video or tape recorded, they should arrange it at their cost.

(t) Any catering or refreshments in connection with the Service is a private family matter and should be arranged and paid for by the family.

Binding of Condolence Book and Order of Service

1.110   Bound copies of the Order of Service are provided only in the case of former and present Governors-General and Prime Ministers.