

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 2006-2007, 22-23 May 2006

Question: PM 27

Outcome 1, Output 4.4

Topic: Costs at the Prime Minister's official residences and expenses for former Governors-General

Direct on Notice.

Senator Evans asked:

1. Please provide an itemised breakdown of all costs for capital works, maintenance, acquisitions and contracted services at the official residences of the Governor-General and the Prime Minister since 31 January 2006.

Answer:

1. The following table provides an itemised breakdown of capital works, maintenance, acquisitions and contracted services at the official residences of the Prime Minister from 31 January 2006 to 31 May 2006.

ITEM	COST (\$)
Both Residences	
Contracted professional services – develop Heritage Strategy	3,918.75
The Lodge	
Contracted grounds and gardens maintenance	46,877.12
Contracted fire and security maintenance	3,201.66
Contracted storage services	2,323.20
Contracted pool maintenance	1,647.48
Contracted air conditioning maintenance and grease filter services	1,312.00
Contracted waste management services	1,069.13
Application of non-slip surface to courtyard	4,112.50
Various maintenance work including painting, plumbing, carpentry	2,830.00
Repair to air conditioning system	2,681.82
Purchase trolley, trays, glasses and storage containers	1,674.32
Plants and garden supplies	1,350.72
Repair lighting circuit and lights	1,265.00
Repair plumbing	797.00
Install exhaust fan	665.00
Silver plate, clean and polish silver salts and pepper shakers	500.00
Repair chair and grandfather clock maintenance	495.00
Supply and install timber venetian blind	281.82

ITEM	COST (\$)
Kirribilli House	
Contracted grounds and gardens maintenance	35,034.91
Contracted rubbish removal and waste management services	4,183.63
Contracted external cleaning and maintenance	2,592.64
Contracted fire and security maintenance	2,563.53
Repairs and painting of residence	21,840.91
Supply and install new fire panel	10,031.00
Removal of dead tree and arborist services	4,100.00
Purchase of replacement outdoor furniture	3,931.82
Supply and install circuit breakers throughout residence	3,890.00
Plants and garden supplies	3,090.28
Sewerage line repairs and treatment	2,606.00
Widening of driveway	2,366.00
Maintenance of dishwasher, refrigerator and kitchen equipment	1,935.45
Replace damaged security monitoring board	1,775.00
Purchase of television	1,131.82
Pest control services	535.00

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.

2. Please provide detail of any expenses over \$5000, paid for with public funds, incurred in facilities provided by the Commonwealth to former Governor-Generals since 31 January 2006. Please indicate the nature of the expense, the cost and relevant former Governor-General.

Since 31 January 2006, none of the former Governors-General have incurred an individual expense over \$5,000.

3. Please provide a breakdown of all entertainment costs (stating the date, nature and purpose of the event, and cost of goods and services, broken down by type) paid for with public funds at the official residences of the Prime Minister since 31 January 2006.

In keeping with past practice (including that of previous governments) the costs for individual functions held at The Lodge and Kirribilli House are not generally disclosed. The functions are held in accordance with entitlements and the Prime Minister personally meets the cost of any significant hospitality at the residences which is essentially of a private or family nature.

4. Please provide details of all costs borne by the Commonwealth for Prime Ministerial overseas travel since 31 January 2006. Please indicate the visit in question and breakdown costs in categories including but not limited to transport, accommodation, food and beverages, gifts and entertainment. Please also indicate the number of staff travelling with the Prime Minister and provide a similar breakdown of costs incurred by those staff.

Costs for the Prime Minister's visit to India in March 2006 and to the United States, Canada and Ireland in May 2006 have not yet been acquitted. When all costs have been acquitted, the full cost will be available in the usual manner.