

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2007-2008, 21-22 May 2007



**Question: PM 87**

**Outcome 1, Output 4.5**

**Topic: Costs incurred by former Governors-General**

**Direct on Notice:**

**Senator Evans asked:**

**Please indicate the total costs of support incurred by Dr Peter Hollingworth since January 1, broken down by:**

- a) property operating expenses,
- b) staff,
- c) support, and
- d) travel.

**Answer:**

Figures for January 2007 were included in the answer to PM 71 from the February 2007 Estimates hearings. The costs incurred during the period 1 February 2007 to 30 April 2007 are as follows:

Item	Cost
Property Operating Expenses	\$ 31,579
Staff	\$ 19,154
Support	\$ 3,806
Travel (including vehicles)	\$ 6,824
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 61,363</b>

The expenditure reflects ongoing costs to support the operation of Dr Hollingworth's office. The support provided to Dr Hollingworth, as a former Governor-General, is consistent with that provided to all former Governors-General. The rent on Dr Hollingworth's office is higher than other Melbourne-based former Governors-General, as there is insufficient space in Dr Hollingworth's preferred location in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices in 4 Treasury Place.

**Please provide details of any expenses over \$5000, paid for with public funds, incurred in facilities provided by the Commonwealth to former Governors-General since 1 July 2006. Please indicate the nature of the expense, the cost and relevant former Governor-General.**

Since 1 July 2006, none of the former Governors-General have incurred an individual expense over \$5,000.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
 2007-08 Budget Estimates Hearings  
 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
 Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio  
 Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**QUESTION: PM87**

**Senator Evans asked:**

[The questions (1)-(2) 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.]

“3. 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.

4. Please provide an itemised breakdown of all costs for capital works, maintenance, acquisitions and contracted services at and for the official residences of the Governor-General for the period since 1 July 2006.”

**Response:**

3. The following overseas visits have been undertaken by the Governor-General since that advised in PM 50:

Purpose	Represent Australia at the funeral of His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II of Samoa
Dates	18-19 May 2007
Destination	Samoa
Number in party	4 <sup>(1)</sup>
Cost of air transport	\$NIL <sup>(2)</sup>
Cost of other transport	\$NIL <sup>(3)</sup>
Accommodation	The Governor-General and staff were guests of the Australian High Commissioner to Samoa and were accommodated at the Australian residential campus.
Meals/drinks and incidentals	\$72.60

(1) The Australian Federal Police does not provide detail on security arrangements or protection for the Governor-General, as doing so may breach the Governor-General's security

(2) excludes Department of Defence costs

(3) ground transport in Samoa was provided by the Australian High Commission

4. The costs of capital works, maintenance, acquisitions and contracted services at and for the official residences of the Governor-General for the period 1 July 2006 to 31 May 2007 are set out below.

Capital works – Government House: design and construction costs for extension of cooling/heating to ground floor of main house \$81,751; construction costs for Honours precinct works to replace inadequate office accommodation, provide meeting room facilities and additional carparking \$3,502,299; upgrade of electrical

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
2007-08 Budget Estimates Hearings  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**  
**Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General**

distribution boards to meet Australian standards \$98,089; replacement of underground telephone and installation of data cables \$47,264; upgrade of air-conditioning system in Chancery building to overcome air flow deficiencies \$80,040; upgrade of external lighting throughout the property to improve security and safety \$38,627; refurbishment of pergola that has deteriorated through normal wear and tear \$6,500; upgrade of electrical transformers to ensure constant and adequate power supply to the property \$2,358; stage 1 upgrade of bitumen roadway that has deteriorated through normal wear and tear \$24,491; replacement of inefficient lighting in the service wing of the main house to improve environmental rating \$19,138; replacement of external stairs that had become unsafe due to normal wear and tear \$71,590; underpinning of collapsing section of House Manager's Cottage \$47,441; upgrade of boiler room to replace failing hot water unit and improve piping and controls \$2,538. Admiralty House Sydney – replacement of collapsing pergola and unsafe pathway \$66,369; reconstruction of collapsing garden wall \$62,133; upgrade of fire protection system to improve safety standards \$7,900; refurbishment of ensuite to main bedroom to improve safety and address operational faults \$18,077; refurbishment of garages to address health and safety issues \$47,190; replacement of collapsing safety railing to harbour to maintain safety \$45,923; construction of safety railing to improve safety in grounds \$12,210; dining room refurbishment to improve lighting and undertake cyclical upkeep for an area that has not been addressed for 12 years \$2,800; refurbishment of toilets and kitchen of Federal Police security guardhouse \$51,067; cyclical refurbishment of main bedroom and sitting room that has not been addressed in over a decade \$12,654; replacement of unsafe flagstone paving \$3,825; installation of heating/cooling system to the main house \$5,095; refurbishment of heritage gazebo that is collapsing \$2,295.

Maintenance – buildings \$320,714; grounds \$187,489.

Acquisitions – furniture and fittings \$17,385; plant and equipment \$14,475; kitchen equipment \$2,504; gardening equipment \$11,798.

Contracted services – office cleaning \$41,284; sanitary services \$896; waste removal and recycling \$19,249; garden waste removal and recycling \$12,947; pest control \$4,827.