

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates for 2009-10 (May 2009)

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Outcome/Output Group:

Outcome 1: The Governor-General is enabled to perform the constitutional, statutory, ceremonial and public duties associated with the appointment.

Output Group 1.1 – Support of the Governor-General,

Output Group 1.2 – Administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system

Topic: Africa trip

Senator: RONALDSON

Question reference number: PM100b

Type of question: Written

PM100(b) (RONALDSON)-OOSGG

- b) Was there any intervention on the part of the Prime Minister or his office or his Department to reduce the number of aircraft for the Governor General's trip?

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009

Number of pages: 1

Answer:

The Government's advice on the program and logistics was taken as the program was developed. At one stage, the Office considered taking a Challenger aircraft in addition to the main aircraft to be used for pre-trip security and advance and medical logistics as there are no diplomatic missions in Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Tanzania or Seychelles. However, the Office determined that it was more economical for advance crew to travel commercially. The decision to proceed with one aircraft was taken by the Office after final logistical arrangements for the trip were confirmed.

As is the case with all overseas travel, naturally the Office worked closely on its organisation with the Prime Minister's Office, his Department, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AusAID and the Australian Defence Force.