

**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: Victoria Cross investiture**

**Senator: RONALDSON**

**Question reference number: PM101a**

**Type of question: Written**

**PM101(a) (RONALDSON)-OOSGG**

In relation to the Victoria Cross ceremony held at Government House in January 2009:

- a) Was the Honorary Colonel of the Special Air Service Regiment invited to attend the ceremony? Did he do so? If he was not invited, why not?

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

**Number of pages: 1**

**Answer:**

Yes, the Honorary Colonel of the Special Air Service Regiment, Colonel Reg Beesley, was invited to the ceremony for the investiture of the Victoria Cross for Australia to Trooper Mark Donaldson on 16 January, 2009. His name appears on the guest list, as having accepted the invitation.