

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: Governor-General's overseas travel

Senator: FORSHAW

Question reference number: PM2

Type of question: Hansard, 25 May p.52

Senator FORSHAW—Mr Brady, I think some time ago when we started on this matter—and I think on, at least, one other occasion—you started to indicate, in response to Senator Ronaldson's questions, that the role undertaken by the current Governor-General in representing Australia was a lot different from past roles. I want to explore that with you. Is the terminology 'representing the government and the people of Australia' terminology that has, in the past, been applied to the role of the Governor-General whilst overseas?

Mr Brady—I would characterise it as 'she represents Australia'.

Senator FORSHAW—I am asking you about, particularly, the use of the term 'government and the people of Australia'.

Mr Brady—I would have to check.

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

Number of pages: 1

Answer:

The terminology 'representing the government and the people of Australia' is used in the context of the Governor-General's overseas travel where the Governor-General may be attending an official engagement or commemoration, such as the 90th anniversary commemorations of the signing of the Armistice in France, a state wedding or funeral etc. On other occasions the Governor-General is generally seen as representing Australia as our Head of State when travelling overseas.