

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010
ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Topic: Government General's impending trip to China

Senator: RONALDSON

Question reference number: PM76

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

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Answer:

a) Yes, from 6 to 12 June 2010.

b) The Governor-General departed Australia on Sunday 6 June 2010 and returned on Saturday 12 June 2010.

c) RAAF SPA (BBJ).

d) The Governor-General and Mr Bryce were accompanied by:

Mr Stephen Brady, Official Secretary

Ms Pamela O'Grady, Director, Executive and Protocol Branch

Ms Niree Creed, Senior Communications and Media Adviser

Mr Paul Singer, Senior Operations Adviser

Ms Lynette Mace, Travel Assistant

Dr Graeme Killer, Physician

Captain Timothy Jackson, ADC

Ms Juliet Zhao, Interpreter

AFP CPP team

Dr Erika Cretney, Senior Research Officer, Immunology Division, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, 'Sisters'*

Professor Deirdre Lemerle, Director and Professor of Agricultural Innovation, EH Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, 'Sisters'*#

Ms Larissa Brown, Founder and Executive Director, Centre for Sustainability Leadership, 'Sisters'*

Professor Veena Sahajwalla, Director Centre for Sustainable Materials Research & Technology, UNSW, 'Sisters'*

Dr Xuemei Bai, Senior Principal Research Scientist, Sustainable Ecosystems Division, CSIRO, 'Sisters'*

Ms Niki Vasilakis, Classical Violinist, 'Sisters'*#

** the 'Sisters' refers to a documentary which includes the Governor-General and is a major feature in the Australian Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo. Expected to be seen by around 70 million people during the course of Expo, the documentary features leading Australian and Chinese women who are leaders in their fields and their inclusion in the visit brought some of the women together to discuss issues relating to science, sustainability, medicine and agriculture. The participation of the 'Sisters' delegation enhanced the Governor-General's meeting and activities in*

Shanghai and Beijing thereby contributing to the deepening of Australia's cultural and scientific links with China (Australia's largest trading partner).

did not travel on the RAAF SPA on all legs

e) The primary purpose of the Governor-General's visit to China was to represent Australia at the Australian National Day at the World Expo in Shanghai and to launch the 'Year of Australian Culture in China'. Her program incorporated several senior-level bilateral meetings, including with Vice-President, His Excellency Mr Xi Jinping, and with Chinese and Australian business representatives, underscoring China's importance as Australia's largest export market and trading partner. The 'Year of Australian Culture in China' will progressively showcase Australian art, music, dance and other cultural pursuits throughout the country. The visit comprised 39 official engagements over six days.

f) Shanghai and Beijing

g) Pudong Shangri-la in Shanghai and St Regis Hotel in Beijing, as guests of the Chinese Government.

h) i) As per established practice RAAF SPA costs will be tabled by the Department of Defence in due course.

ii) The Chinese Government met accommodation costs for the Governor-General and Mr Bryce and several Government House staff. Other accommodation costs met by the Office are yet to be finalised.

iii) The Chinese Government met ground transportation costs for the Governor-General and Mr Bryce several Government House staff. Other ground transportation costs are yet to be finalised.

iv) Official gift costs are met by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

v) Official hospitality costs are yet to be finalised.

vi) Any other costs associated with the trip are yet to be finalised.