

Additional information – Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

On return to Government House following the Office's appearance at budget estimates today, the Governor-General advised the Official Secretary that she had approached Mr Bob Ellis on one occasion seeking ideas for her Melbourne Cup speech of November 2011. This information had not previously been communicated to any member of staff at Government House, including the Official Secretary. There was no payment from this Office for these services.

This information should be passed through the Chair to Senator Ryan as it relates to his question during this afternoon's estimates appearance.

Further to the question from Senator Kroger in relation to the gazettal of changes to ministerial appointments, I have sought further information from the employee responsible for gazettal notifications and have been advised that:

- a) In relation to the appointment of Senator the Honourable Bob Carr as Minister for Foreign Affairs, the swearing in took place on 13 April 2012, however the gazettal is yet to be published, and will be actioned at the earliest opportunity;
- b) The revocation of the appointment of the Honourable Kevin Rudd MP as Minister for Foreign Affairs (which took effect on 26 February 2012) was gazetted on 13 April 2012; and
- c) Changes to the Ministry which took effect on 14 December 2011 have not yet been gazetted and will be actioned at the earliest opportunity.

This information should be passed through the Chair to Senator Kroger as it relates to her question during this afternoon's estimates appearance.

Sincerely

Mark Fraser OAM
Deputy Official Secretary to the Governor-General
Government House, Canberra ACT 2600
TEL: (02) 62833509
FAX: (02) 62604968
Mobile: 0400 060 375