

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2005-2006, 31 October 2005

Question: PM 75

Outcome 1, Output 4.5

Topic: Official Residences

Direct on Notice: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. Please provide details and costs of any renovation or building works undertaken or planned at any of the official residences of the Prime Minister or Governor-General for the financial year 2005-06.

Answers 1 to 5:

In keeping with past practice, the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General will respond directly to the Committee in relation to the official residences of the Governor-General.

Answer 1:

The following table details expenditure on renovation, building works and maintenance for The Lodge and Kirribilli House from 1 July 2005 to 31 October 2005. Aggregate figures are provided for expenditure on scheduled servicing of plant and equipment and urgent and minor repairs and maintenance.

NATURE OF WORK	COST (GST excl.)
The Lodge	
Scheduled maintenance and servicing of plant and equipment	\$ 2,260
Urgent and minor repairs and maintenance	\$ 8,620
Kirribilli House	
External painting, including scaffolding	\$ 14,936
Scheduled maintenance and servicing of plant and equipment	\$ 4,322
Urgent and minor repairs and maintenance	\$ 3,518

As previously advised during Estimates hearings, during the remainder of the 2005-06 financial year, the Department will be investigating the possible replacement of the slate roof at The Lodge. Costs will not be known until after the tender process is completed. The slate roof was replaced in the mid-1980s, however the slate used was very poor quality and has deteriorated rapidly. A number of patch repairs have been done, but the replacement of the slate must now be undertaken. Some further external painting is planned at Kirribilli House at an estimated cost of \$20,000.

2. Please provide details and costs of any garden maintenance or works undertaken or planned at any of the official residences of the Prime Minister or Governor-General for the financial year 2005-06.

Answer 2:

The following table details expenditure on garden maintenance or works for The Lodge and Kirribilli House from 1 July 2005 to 31 October 2005. Aggregate figures are provided for expenditure on the purchase of garden plants and supplies.

NATURE OF WORK	COST (GST excl.)
The Lodge	
Garden maintenance contract charges	\$ 30,051
Purchase of garden plants and supplies	\$ 3,452
Arboriculture services	\$ 2,400
Kirribilli House	
Garden maintenance contract charges	\$ 20,466
Purchase of garden plants and supplies	\$ 1,187

No major garden maintenance or works are currently planned for the remainder of the 2005-06 financial year at either residence.

3. Please provide details and costs of any furniture, household effects, fittings, carpets and other items purchased or planned for purchase in the current financial year for the official residences.

Answer 3:

The following table details expenditure on furniture, household effects, fittings, carpets and other items for The Lodge and Kirribilli House from 1 July 2005 to 31 October 2005.

NATURE OF WORK	COST (GST excl.)
The Lodge	
Manufacture, supply and install carpet to foyer and main staircase (as advised in previous Estimates hearings)	\$ 20,990
Purchase of outdoor chairs	\$ 773
Kirribilli House	
No purchases made	

No major purchases of furniture, household effects, fittings, carpets and other items are currently planned for the remainder of the 2005-06 financial year at either residence.

4. Please provide details, including costs, of any official functions held at the official residences, paid for with public funds, in this financial year and any planned events this financial year.

Answer 4:

A number of official functions are held each year at both The Lodge and Kirribilli House. Regular functions include:

- Australia Day reception	The Lodge
- COAG dinners	The Lodge
- PM's XI and international team reception	The Lodge
- Press Gallery Christmas reception	The Lodge
- Coalition colleagues Christmas reception	The Lodge
- Commonwealth Senior Executives Christmas reception	The Lodge
- Parliamentary Partners Morning Tea/Lunch	The Lodge
- Cross-section community Christmas reception	Kirribilli House
- New Year's Eve reception	Kirribilli House
- PMO staff Christmas dinner	Alternates

Other official functions are hosted as required, such as luncheons and dinners for visiting dignitaries. In keeping with the normal practice (including that of previous governments), costs for individual functions held at The Lodge and Kirribilli House are not provided.

5. Please provide details of any purchases of alcoholic beverages purchased, or planned for purchase with public funds this financial year for the official residences.

Answer 5:

Expenditure on alcoholic beverages from 1 July 2005 to 31 October 2005 for both The Lodge and Kirribilli House was \$5,938. Anticipated annual expenditure is expected to be consistent with previous years.