

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: National Police Service Medal

Senator: Senator the Hon. Brandis

Question reference number: 41

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 3

Question:

1. What representation was given to retired members to the committee to establish the medal?
2. What representations were made by the Government to the Australian Police Association and police associations in other jurisdictions regarding the establishment of the medal?
3. Given that many former members, who are now retired, were critical in establishing the award, what is the current position of the eligibility of those members? Will they continue to be excluded?
4. Given the qualifying service criteria has been established at "a minimum of 15 years' service", on what basis was this criteria established?
5. Is 15 years minimum service too arbitrary a delineation for the qualifying criteria?
6. On what basis was it decided that the medal would not be awarded retrospectively?
7. Is consideration being given to changing the qualifying criteria circumstances in which the medal may be awarded?
8. Will consideration be given to officers who have been forced to retired because of injury of illness be considered for qualification?
9. How much has been allocated to the NPSM in the Budget?

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Answer:

1. A committee was not formed to establish the National Police Service Medal (NPSM).
2. The proposal for establishment of the NPSM was the subject of consultation with Police Commissioners and the Police Federation of Australia (PFA). The PFA is the national body which brings together members of the eight state, territory and federal police associations and unions across the country.
3. The NPSM Regulations 2010 do not exclude former or retired police, though service on or after 30 October 2008 is required. The medal may be awarded to a person who:
 - is, or was, a sworn member of an Australian police force on or after 30 October 2008;
 - in the opinion of that person's Commissioner, gave ethical and diligent service; and
 - has given full-time or part-time service as a member of one or more Australian police forces for a period of at least 15 years or periods totalling at least 15 years.
4. The regulations for service medals need to define eligibility criteria including a minimum period of service. The period of service required to qualify for the NPSM was informed by reference to the qualifying periods for other service medals in the Australian honours system. The eligibility criteria for the NPSM, including the minimum period of service, were determined in consultation with Police Commissioners and the PFA.
5. See answer 4 above.
6. The medal may be awarded to a person who is, or was, a sworn member of an Australian police force on or after 30 October 2008, whether or not they are currently serving. 30 October 2008 is the date on which Her Majesty The Queen gave in-principle approval for the establishment of the medal.
7. No.
8. The NPSM Regulations provide that Police Commissioners may waive the minimum duration of service necessary to qualify for the medal if a member was unable to continue serving because of death, injury or disability that occurred as a result of their police service, subject to the satisfaction of all other eligibility criteria.

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9. The Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General received funding of \$2.6 million over four years from 2011-12 for the administration of the NPSM and the National Emergency Medal.