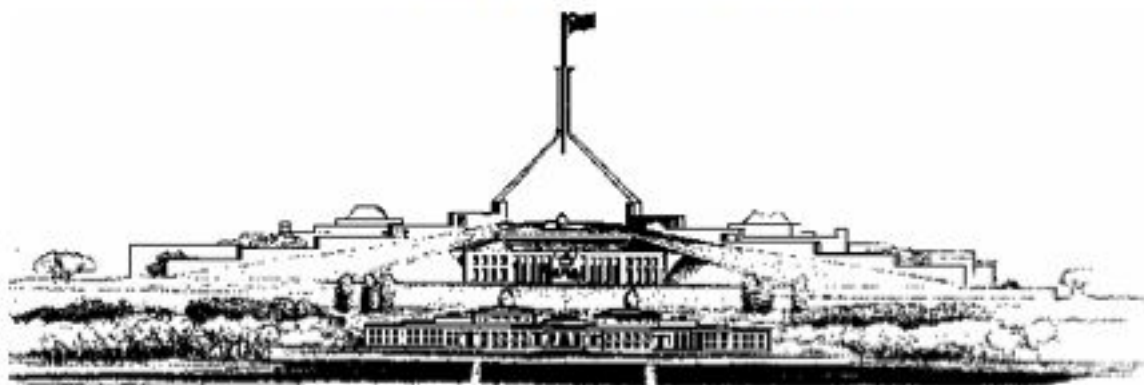




COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS IN WRITING

College of Arms (Question No. 806)

QUESTION

806

Wednesday, 7 February 2018

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTION

Date	Wednesday, 7 February 2018	Source	House
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Questioner	Zimmerman, Trent, MP	Responder	Turnbull, Malcolm, MP
Speaker		Question No.	806

College of Arms (Question No. 806)

College of Arms

(Question No. 806)

Mr Zimmerman asked the Prime Minister, in writing, on 4 September 2017:

(1) Is it the Government's official policy to accept and accede to the claim made by the English College of Arms that it possesses 'official heraldic authority' over Australia; if so,

- (a). when was this policy determined,
- (b). when and how was it made public,
- (c). is there an official Commonwealth record of this policy decision being determined, and
- (d). was it determined by a decision
 - (i) of the Parliament,
 - (ii) of the Cabinet, or
 - (iii) by some other authority.

(2) If the above is not the official policy of the Government, has the Government delegated heraldic authority to the sovereign of the United Kingdom or any of her officers; if so,

- (a). when was this delegation made,
- (b). when and how was it made public,
- (c). is there an official Commonwealth record of this delegation being made, and
- (d). was it made by a decision
 - (i) of the Parliament,
 - (ii) of the Cabinet, or
 - (iii) by some other authority.

(3) Is the Government aware that Canada and South Africa have established their own heraldic authorities independent of the English College of Arms.

Mr Turnbull: I am advised by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet that the answer to the honourable member's question is as follows:

The practice of the College of Arms in England granting armorial bearings to Australians is well established as one way Australians can obtain heraldic insignia if they wish to do so. There is nothing preventing any person or organisation from commissioning a local artist, graphics studio or heraldry specialist to design and produce a coat of arms or identifying symbol. Those arms would have the same standing and authority in Australia as arms prepared by the College of Arms in England.

