

Question on Notice

No. 1563

Asked on 30 November 2006

MR RICKUSS asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (MR BEATTIE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Ministerial Gift Register, item no. 1919 in particular—

Why has a piece of artwork by the internationally renowned artist Davida Allen, a proud Queenslander and one of the few female artists to win Australia's most prestigious art award – the Archibald Prize, been under-valued and stored in a backroom of the Ministerial Services Branch of the Premier's Department and not held within the celebrated collection of the Queensland Art Gallery?

ANSWER:

The artwork by Davida Allen received by me on 27 January 2006 was provided to Ministerial Services for valuation in accordance with the gifts policy in the Ministerial Handbook (the Handbook).

In accordance with the Handbook, Ministerial Services contacted the Queensland Art Gallery (the QAG) to obtain a valuation and determine if the gallery wished to retain the artwork in their collection.

The QAG provided a valuation of \$1,000 wholesale and \$1,500 retail for the specific piece. The QAG advised that the piece was not required for the gallery's collection.

I was advised of this on 28 February 2006. On 16 March 2006 I returned the artwork to Ministerial Services for safe keeping until the next gift auction. At the time I stated that I was of the view that it was appropriate that its value be realised at auction and the proceeds be put to a good cause.

Since that time Ministerial Services has stored the artwork in its secure gifts' storeroom.

This piece of artwork has been handled in accordance with the processes set out in the Handbook.

There has not been any attempt to misrepresent its value or prevent it from being placed on public display.