

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000021

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig Joe

Question:

1. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
5. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
6. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
7. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
8. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for?
 - a) Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
9. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

1. For the period 20 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 hospitality spend (including catering and drink costs) was \$8,458.
2. Total Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office hospitality expenditure for the period 1 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 was \$331 as per the itemised list below:

Minister for Health

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
11-Dec-13	Canberra	Announcement of Breast Cancer Nurses funding	\$331

3. Hospitality and entertainment have the same definition under the Department's Finance Business Rules, which are consistent with the Australian Taxation Office ruling regarding entertainment by way of food or drink. Refer to 1 above.

Details of the Department/Agency expenditure for the period 20 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 are provided below:

Department of Health

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
13-Nov-13	Canberra	Dinner for members of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee	\$633
19-Nov-13	Canberra	Staff attendance at speech by Chair of the Chemical, Biological & Radiological Technology Alliance	\$147
25-Nov-13	Adelaide	National Lead Clinicians Group meeting	\$1,391
10-Dec-13	Canberra	Meeting with CEO of GAVI Alliance	\$418

Therapeutic Goods Administration

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
12-Feb-14	Canberra	Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines – 50 th Anniversary event	\$2,454

Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR)

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
14-Nov-13	Canberra	Dinner for delegates participating in the OGTR forum on international regulatory framework	\$1,070
17-Dec-13	Canberra	Official dinner for staff and committee members for the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee	\$1,105
19-Feb-14	Canberra	Official dinner for staff and committee members for the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee	\$1,240

4. Note that hospitality and entertainment have the same definition under the Department's Finance Business Rules. Refer to 2 above.

5 - 8. The Department of Health does not specifically budget in the forward estimates by this class of expenditure.

9. The Department continues to seek to reduce and minimise expenditure on hospitality, for example utilising the department's own facilities including our video conferencing facility which was implemented in early 2012 where possible and appropriate.