Question No: 112

Program No. NBN Co

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Ludwig asked:
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. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:
1. Hospitality expenses are included as part of entertainment expenses. Entertainment includes events/functions where people are formally invited and food, drinks and possibly entertainment are provided. The value of expenditure for the period of 1 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 was $120,448 (GST exclusive).
2. Refer answer (1) above.
3. Anticipated hospitality and entertainment expenditure based on the NBN Co reforecast (dated February 2014) for the period of 1 March 2014 to 30 June 2014 is $22,570.
4. Refer Answer to (3) above.
5. NBN Co always looks for ways to minimise its hospitality and entertainment expenditure. The Company has established policies and procedures to ensure only necessary expenditure is incurred. NBN Co currently considers its expenditure to be reasonable.