

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

14 February 2013

Question: AET 898-902

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

898. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date (22 February 2013)? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
899. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date (22 February 2013)? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
900. 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.
901. 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.
902. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?

Answer:

898-899.

The ATO does not account for hospitality and entertainment expenses separately. Official hospitality covers all hospitality and entertainment expenses incurred by the ATO.

In 2012-13 to 28 February 2013, the ATO expenditure on official hospitality was \$4,104 excluding GST. The table below contains details of the date, location, purpose and cost.

DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE	COST
10/07/2012	MacGregor State High School, Brisbane	Catering - Launch of Tax, Super + You - an ATO developed digital curriculum for students.	\$746
19/07/2012	Canberra	Gift - Flowers for External Presenter at Progress Super Reform Workshop	\$23
20/07/2012	Sydney	Official Lunch - Tax and Customs Administration of the Netherlands	\$399
3/09/2012	Sydney	Official Dinner - US Internal Revenue Service	\$530
4/09/2012	ATO Office - Perth	Catering - Australian Government Leaders Network	\$157
25/09/2012	ATO Office - Canberra	Gifts - External Speakers at Tax Policy Design Conference	\$102
20/09/2012	Sydney	Official Dinner - US Internal Revenue Service	\$879
9/10/2012	Melbourne	Gift - Wine for External presenters at Warrant of Seizure and Sale Seminar	\$45
29/10/2012	Brisbane	Official Dinner - Japanese Revenue Delegation	\$476
5/11/2012	Thailand	Gift - International Delegation in Thailand	\$418
12/11/2012	Melbourne	Gift - Wine presented to External Barristers for providing presentation on mediation.	\$52

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DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE	COST
15/11/2012	Melbourne	Gift - Wine presented to facilitator for Client Account Services Senior Management Conference	\$38
15/11/2012	Melbourne	Gift - Wine presented to guest speakers at Superannuation leadership conference	\$65
24/01/2013	Canberra	Working lunch ATO and Treasury CEO's	\$174
TOTAL			\$4,104

900-902.

The ATO's internal budget does not provide information at the requested level of detail.

ATO hospitality and entertainment includes gifts for external speakers and catering for visiting international tax officials as part of the ATO's commitment to international collaboration and continuing best practice in tax administration.

The ATO reduces the costs of international visits as much as possible by running multilateral events that many countries from the region can attend. The number of requests for visits to the ATO are considerably higher than those that the ATO agrees to each year.