

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Meeting costs

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 174

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from 7 September 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and the offices of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in the Prime Minister's portfolio arrange many meetings. For portfolio ministers, parliamentary secretaries and their offices, some costs (e.g. catering) may be met by PM&C while other costs (e.g. travel costs) are met by the Department of Finance.

For costs that are met by PM&C, information is not recorded in a way that would readily enable these questions to be answered. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Details on expenditure for hospitality and entertainment are contained in question on notice PM 175 – hospitality and entertainment.