

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Portfolio

Question No. 147

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

Community Cabinet Meetings

- a) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?
- b) How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended? List date and location.
- c) How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Ministerial Staff attend? List date and location.
- d) How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.
- e) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) The Department is unable to provide information about the costs associated with the Attorney or Minister's attendance, or the attendance of ministerial staff, at these meetings. Travel costs by ministers, parliamentary secretaries and other staff covered by the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are administered by the Department of Finance and Deregulation and departments do not hold this information.
- b), c), d) and e) For the 2011/12 financial year to 14 February 2012, please refer to Question on Notice 90, provided following Senate Additional Estimates in February.

For the remainder of the 2011/12 financial year to 30 April 2012, there was one Community Cabinet meeting in Parramatta on 4 April 2012 attended by the Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, the Hon Jason Clare MP. The Minister was accompanied by one Departmental officer.

Costs associated with the departmental officer's attendance at the meeting are detailed below:

Meeting	No of Departmental Staff	Flight Costs	Taxi and Parking	Total Cost of Departmental Staff
Parramatta, NSW 4 April 2012	1	\$225.86	\$115.90	\$341.76