

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0368_14ED0368_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept/Ag - Hospitality and entertainment

Hospitality and entertainment 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 7. and drinks costs. 8. 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. 9. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering 10. and drinks costs. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer

The Department of Education was established on 18 September 2013. Previously the functions were delivered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Total hospitality expenditure for the Department of Education¹ for the period 1 December 2013 to 28 February 2014 was \$21,957.20.

Please refer to the tables below for a breakdown of events with a cost exceeding \$1000.00. To provide details for each item of expenditure would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. Hospitality and entertainment are interchangeable terms for this type of expenditure and both are included in the information below.

Event DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE	COST (\$) (Ex GST)
26 November 13	High Commissioner's Residence, Australian High Commission, 1/50G Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, India	Welcome cocktail reception for over 100 Australian delegates attending the Australia India Skills Mission 2013, an initiative of the Australia India Education Council (AIEC).	5,213.17
3 December 2013	Australian Embassy Tokyo, 2-1-14 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo	Lunch reception for the participants to the Australia-Japan Higher Education Seminar on 3 Dec 2013. The seminar was organised to encourage mutual student mobility including the New Colombo Plan and to seek the possibility of further cooperation.	2,162.03
11 December 2013	50 Marcus Clarke St Canberra	Aboriginal dance performance IAGDP Graduation ceremony	1,000.00
13 December 2013	IALF, Plaza Kuningan, Jl HR Rasuna Said Jakarta Selatan	Payment was for 2 nights' accommodation for 20 potential Australian Alumni Ambassadors. Ambassadors are Australian Government scholarship holders (mainly the Australia Awards Scholarship) within their targeted locations.	3,293.16
22 January 2014	KL Convention Centre, Jalan Ampang Kuala Lumpur	DFAT Australia Day Event	1,000.00
17 February 2014	Lara Djongrang, Jl Teuku Cik Di Tiro No 4 Menteng, Jakarta Pusat	AEI Jakarta hosted a dinner and traditional dance performance for cultural activity of AEI Regional Conference 2014.	1,901.97
Subtotal			\$14,570.33

Minister/ Parliamentary Secretary

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP		\$606.84
The Hon Sussan Ley MP		\$0
Senator the Hon Scott Ryan		\$0
Subtotal		\$606.84
GENERAL EXPENDITURE (< \$1,000 in value per event)		
PURPOSE		
Education ¹	General Official Hospitality includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launches attended by the media; ▪ Hospitality associated with advisory committee functions; ▪ Major events relating to the progress or promotion of the Department’s business ▪ Hospitality which promotes a government policy or objective; ▪ Hosting visiting officials and dignitaries from overseas; ▪ Hospitality which facilitates the conduct of public business and ▪ Hospitality at functions for staff in recognition of significant events 	\$6,780.03
Total < \$1000		\$6,780.03
Total		\$21,957.20

¹ Corporate and the State Office Network provide services to the Department of Education and the Department of Employment. The value associated with these functions has been attributed to both departments.

The estimated hospitality expenditure for financial year 2013–14 is \$45,000. The details of specific events are not currently determined.

All expenditure on hospitality is for official purposes and determined to be appropriate prior to approval. Each item is considered in the context of efficiently and effectively conducting the business of the department.