

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0016_14

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Hospitality and entertainment - financial year to date

What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. 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. 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 and drinks costs. 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. 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 and drinks costs. 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

Total hospitality expenditure for the Department for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 was \$12 021. Please refer to the tables below for a breakdown between events of \$1000 or more and general Group and State hospitality; and a breakdown by Ministerial office. 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)
11 June 2012	Le Chat Botte 13 Quai Du Mont Blanc Geneva, Switzerland	Ministerial Dinner while attending the International Labour Organisation Conference	\$1,133
19 July 2012	Park Royal Hotel, Arrival Drive, Tullamarine, Vic	Disability Employment Service Reference Group meeting	\$1,879
31 July 2012	DEEWR Offices, 50 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra ACT	Childcare Management System (CCMS) Technical Reference Group meeting	\$1,200
Subtotal			\$4,212

Minister/ Parliamentary Secretary

The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP		\$0
The Hon Bill Shorten MP		\$0
The Hon Julie Collins MP		\$0
The Hon Kate Ellis MP		\$0
Senator the Hon Jacinta Collins		\$0
Subtotal		0
GENERAL EXPENDITURE (< \$1,000 in value per event)		
PURPOSE		
Executive	General Official Hospitality includes:	\$335
Corporate and Network	▪ Launches attended by the media;	\$2,231
ECWAIP	▪ Hospitality associated with advisory committee functions;	\$2,562
Employment	▪ Major events relating to the progress or promotion of the Department's business	\$1,263
Schools and Youth	▪ Hospitality which promotes a government policy or objective;	\$129
State Network	▪ Hosting visiting officials and dignitaries from overseas;	\$780
Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy	▪ Hospitality which facilitates the conduct of public business and	\$508
	▪ Hospitality at functions for staff in recognition of significant events	
Total < \$1000		\$7,808
Total		\$12,020

The estimated hospitality expenditure for financial year 2012-13 is \$20,000. 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. There is no specific policy to reduce these expenses, however, each item is considered in the context of efficiently and effectively conducting the business of the Department.