

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Department of the Senate**

**Budget Estimates**

**26-30 May 2014**

**Question: 69**

**Topic: Hospitality and entertainment**

**Written: 12 June 2014**

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

1. What is the department/agency's hospitality spend from Additional Estimates in February 2014 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.
  - a) 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 Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date?
  - a) 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 Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date.
  - a) 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?
  - a) 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?
  - a) Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
7. What entertainment spend is the department/agency's planning on spending?
  - a) Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
8. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for?
  - a) Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
9. Is the department/agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

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**Answer:**

1. For the period of 24 February 2014 to date, the department has spent a total of \$24,457 on hospitality and entertainment. The details are as follows.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cost</b>
17/02/14	Parliament House	Lunch: Delegation from India	\$ 222
21/02/14	Parliament House	Orientation – Australian National Internship Program	\$ 333
24/02/2014 26/02/2014	Parliament House	Procedure Office seminars*	\$ 588
24/02/2014 26/02/2014	Parliament House	Senate Publications Committee meetings	\$ 600
Multiple	Parliament House	Various Committee hearings	\$ 20,480
14/02/14 07/03/14 11/04/14	Parliament House / Hyatt Hotel	Lunch: Occasional lectures series – guest lecturers	\$ 555
19/03/14	Parliament House	Dinner: Delegation from Latin America	\$ 1,238
28/03/14	Parliament House	Reception: Governor General swearing in	\$ 99
27/05/14	Parliament House	Lunch: Legal Advisors	\$ 245
30/05/14	Parliament House	Lunch: Guest Lecturer	\$ 97

*\* Note: the cost of this hospitality was offset by course participant fees.*

2. As a parliamentary department, the department does not report to a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.
3. See (1).
4. Not applicable.
5. The department's spending on hospitality and entertainment is determined on a case by case basis and is largely dependent on the meetings of the Senate and its Committees, and other parliamentary activities such as conferences, training and inter-parliamentary relations.
6. Not applicable.
7. See (5).
8. Not applicable.
9. The department monitors all expenditure carefully but will continue to support committees and provide modest hospitality when appropriate.