

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Cabinet Meetings - Catering

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: 42

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Question:

Senator WONG: Surely you must budget for some allocation? You must have some budget for what it costs to run the cabinet meetings.

Ms Cass: I can find out for you if we set aside a specific budget. It is a minimal amount of around \$14,000 per year.

Senator WONG: I want to know what is budgeted for any year by Cabinet Division for provision of catering to the cabinet and how much has been spent in each financial year since September 2015. Can we do that?

Ms Cass: Yes, we can.

Answer:

Consistent with longstanding practices, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is allocated departmental funds for the operation of the Department, including providing support and services to the Cabinet and its committees. Allocation of departmental funding and internal budgets are matters for the Secretary and may change from time to time.

As Cabinet and committee meetings occur, catering costs are paid from the department's existing budget.

From 15 September 2015 to 30 June 2016, \$12,593 was spent on catering for Cabinet and committee meetings by Cabinet Division. While we are still finalising costs for this financial year, we expect to spend around \$32,100 for catering of Cabinet and committee meetings for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 May 2017.