

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 14 FEBRUARY 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Question reference number: HS 36

Senator: Boyce

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) What is the Department's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) 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.
- c) What is the Department's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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.
- h) 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.
- i) Is the Department 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:

- a) The combined hospitality, food and beverage expenditure incurred by the Department for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013 was \$590,236. This includes expenditure on tea, coffee, and biscuits for community support services, for example, Financial Information Sessions and Customer Rehabilitation Services (CRS) meetings.
- b) Nil.
- c) Nil.
- d) Nil.
- e) The cost of hospitality that the Department is planning on spending for 2012-13 is \$1,639,448.
Due to the large amount of information required to provide details for date, location, purpose and cost of events, the preparation of an answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- f) Nil.
- g) Nil.
- h) Nil.
- i) No specific spending reductions are planned. A substantial amount of the expenditure on hospitality relates to community support services. For example, in 2011-12 DHS delivered 2,700 Financial Information Services seminars across the country and provided tea, coffee and biscuits at these events.
DHS has a strong governance framework and all expenditure is approved by authorised delegates.