

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Meeting costs

Question reference number: HS 37

Senator: Boyce

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) What is the department's meeting 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 meeting spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What meeting spend is the department/agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

- a) The Department's spending on meetings incurred for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013 is included in the combined hospitality, food and beverage expenditure for the period provided in Question on Notice HS36, which was \$590,236. The majority of meetings within the Department do not include catering and drinks costs.
For the Department to provide details of the date, location, purpose and cost of meetings would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- b) This data is not readily available and compilation of the answer would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- c) The Department's planned spending on meetings is incorporated in the planned combined hospitality cost provided for in Question on Notice HS 36. For 2012-13, the Department is planning to spend \$1,639,448 on hospitality, food and beverages. The majority of meetings within the Department do not include catering and drinks costs.
- d) This data is not readily available and compilation of the answer would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.