

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 27 FEBRUARY 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Meeting Costs

Question reference number: HS 69

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 April 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 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 from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 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 is included in the combined hospitality, food and beverage expenditure as per Question on Notice (QON) on *Hospitality and Entertainment* (refer HS 70 and HS 138). The combined hospitality food and beverage expenditure from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 28 February 2014 was \$176,707. The majority of meetings within the department do not incur catering and drinks costs. Included within this amount is expenditure for the provision of tea, coffee and biscuits for community support services such as Financial Information Service seminars and CRS Australia customer meetings. It would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide details of the date, location, purpose and cost of meetings.
- b) This data is not readily available and compilation of the answer would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- c) Expenditure on meetings is not able to be separated from other hospitality, food and beverage expenditure. The total hospitality, food and beverage expenditure for the department for the 2013-14 financial year is forecast at \$800,000. Due to the large amount of information required to provide details for dates, location,

purpose and cost of individual events, the preparation of an answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

- d) This data is not readily available and compilation of the answer would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.