

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 27 FEBRUARY 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Question reference number: HS 70

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 hospitality spend for this all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spends from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 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 from 7 September 2013 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/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

- a) The combined hospitality, food and beverage expenditure incurred by the department for the period 1 July 2013 to 28 February 2014 is \$573,193. 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.
- b) Nil.
- c) Nil.
- d) Nil.
- e) Expenditure on hospitality 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. The department does not forecast these expenses below this level.
- f) Nil.
- g) Nil.
- h) Nil.
- i) No specific spending reductions are planned. The department actively manages hospitality spend and has a sound control framework to contain costs, including:
 - A strong financial delegation framework.
 - Financial rules that outline the mandatory requirements in relation to providing food, drink and/or entertainment to persons external to the department.

A substantial amount of the expenditure on hospitality relates to community support services including customer meetings for job seekers and employer workgroups and Financial Information Service seminars where tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.