

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes Question No: SQ16-000039

Topic: Meeting Costs

Hansard page: Written

Senator Joe Ludwig asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How much has the Department/Agency spent on meeting costs? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
3. 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.
4. 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:

1. The Department's meeting expenditure from 1 September 2015 to 31 December 2015 was \$42,600.24 (ex GST). The level of detailed information requested regarding meeting costs is not readily available for the Department and to identify this information would require a significant diversion of resources.
2. From September 2015, DSS has met the costs of two functions hosted by Minister Porter.

	Function 1 (15 October 2015)	Function 2 (22 October 2015)
Attendees	Minister Porter 2 Ministers Office Staff 5 DSS Executive Staff 16 Stakeholders from various non-government organisations with a relationship to the portfolio	Minister Porter 2 Ministers Office Staff 5 DSS Executive Staff 18 Stakeholders from various non-government organisations with a relationship to the portfolio
Venue	The Terrace, Old Parliament House	The Terrace, Old Parliament House
Cost	\$3,665.08 (GST incl.) \$3,569.89 (GST exclusive)	\$3,924.14 (GST incl.) \$3,567.40 (GST exclusive)
Food/Wine	Food and wine served was part of a food and beverage package, itemised details of food and wine are unavailable.	Food and wine served was part of a food and beverage package, itemised details of food and wine are unavailable.
Entertainment	Nil	Nil

3. Meetings are held for business purposes when required. The level of detailed information requested regarding future meetings is not readily available in the Department and to identify this information would require a significant diversion of resources.
4. No other functions or official receptions have been held by current or former Ministers in 2015-16.