

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-107

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator McKenzie

Question:

- a) What is the department/agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- 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 each event.
- c) What is the department/agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- 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 each event.
- e) What is the department/agency planning on spending on hospitality? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- f) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
- g) What entertainment spend is the department/agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- h) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
- 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 department's hospitality expenditure for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 was \$60,585.21 (including GST). The department is unable to provide the level of detail requested as the work involved would require a significant diversion of resources from other departmental operations. Guidelines are in place to ensure appropriate spending on hospitality. Hospitality spending is only approved when it is demonstrated that it will achieve a benefit to the department, the number of staff and non-staff members must be limited to those whose presence is required, and associated costs must be reasonable and appropriate.
- b) Please refer to **Table A** for a summary of hospitality and related costs for the reporting period.

Table A:

1 July 2011 to 14 Dec 2011						14 Dec 2011 to 31 May 2012					
Minister / Parliamentary Secretary	Cost incl. GST	Purpose	Date	Location	Total	Minister / Parliamentary Secretary	Cost incl. GST	Purpose	Date	Location	Total
Minister for Health & Ageing1	Nil					Minister for Health2	Nil				
1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012											
Minister / Parliamentary Secretary	Cost incl. GST		Purpose		Date		Location		Total		
Minister for Mental Health & Ageing	\$1,299.00		Release of the Productivity Commission Report		8 August 2011		Parliament House		\$1,299.00		
Minister for Indigenous Health	Nil										
Parliamentary Secretary for Health & Ageing	\$464.00		Group of Portfolio Agency Heads Dinner		16 August 2011		Parliament House		\$662.20		
	\$198.20		Stakeholder meeting with Australian Industry Group and Australian Food & Grocery Council		23 September 2011		Parliament House				

- c) Note that hospitality and entertainment have the same definition under the Department's Finance Business Rules. Accordingly, refer to answer at part (a).
- d) Nil
- e) Individual Branches or Divisions in the Department plan their hospitality spending but the corporate systems do not allow for this information to be collected in one report.
- f) Nil
- g) Refer to answer at part (e).
- h) Nil
- i) The department continues to seek to reduce and minimise expenditure on hospitality, for example utilising the video conferencing facility.

1 **Minister for Health & Ageing:** Prior to Ministerial reshuffle on 14 December 2011.

2 **Minister for Health:** Following Ministerial reshuffle on 14 December 2011.