

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-070

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Community Cabinet Meetings

Type of Question: Written Questions on Notice

Senator: Smith

Question:

- a) Provide an update of how many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended this financial year to date? List date and location.
- b) How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodation and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.
- c) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

Answer:

The following response reflects the situation as at the time the question was asked.

- a) There have been eight Community Cabinet Meetings held during the 2012-13 financial year.

With the exception of the 3 October 2012 Community Cabinet Meeting held in Launceston, Tasmania, one or more of the portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries attended the meetings as outlined below:

- 10 July 2012 – Ipswich, Queensland (Parliamentary Secretary King)
- 5 September 2012 – Perth, Western Australia (Minister Plibersek)
- 3 October 2012 – Launceston, Tasmania**
- 14 November 2012 – Kippa-Ring, Queensland (Minister Plibersek, Minister Butler)
- 20 February 2013 – Aberfoyle Park, South Australia (Minister Butler)
- 27 March 2013 – Thornlie, Western Australia (Parliamentary Secretary King and Parliamentary Secretary Parke)
- 17 April 2013 – Ringwood, Victoria (Minister Plibersek)
- 22 May 2013 – Regents Park, New South Wales (Minister Plibersek)

** Minister Butler was unable to attend the Community Cabinet held in Launceston, Tasmania on 3 October 2012 and was represented by an Advisor.

- b) Between one and two Departmental Officers attended each of the Community Cabinet Meetings held this financial year. The following table provides a breakdown of these costs.

| | No. Dept staff | Travel | | Accommodation | Other* | Motor Vehicle | Totals |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Ipswich (10 July 12) | 2 | \$37.30 | (Taxi fare) | - | - | - | \$37.30 |
| Perth (5 Sept 12) | 1 | - | - | \$380.00 | - | - | \$380.00 |
| Launceston (3 Oct 12) | 1 | \$1,417.43 | (Air fare) | \$171.00 | \$137.80 | - | \$1,726.23 |
| Kippa-Ring (14 Nov 12) | 2 | \$35.30 | (Taxi fare) | - | - | - | \$35.30 |
| Aberfoyle Park (20 Feb 13) | 1 | \$883.82 | (Air fare) | \$170.00 | \$137.80 | \$109.94 | \$1,301.56 |
| Thornlie (27 March 13) | 1 | \$1,789.62 | (Air fare) | \$260.00 | \$150.15 | \$135.02 | \$2,334.79 |
| Ringwood (17 April 13) | 2 | \$456.44 | (Air & Taxi fare) | \$1,152.40 | \$243.50 | - | \$1,852.34 |
| Regents Park (22 May 13) | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | \$0.00 |

* - Includes Travel Allowance

- c) The total cost to the Department of this travel, accommodation and other expenses was \$7,667.52. The Department of Health is unable to answer for the Ministers' office as travel costs for Ministers and their offices are managed by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.