

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000739

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

1. What is the department/agency's hospitality spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality 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.
3. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

1. The Department of Health's hospitality spend from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date including any catering and drinks costs was \$10,138 (GST exclusive).
2. Total hospitality spend for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date including any catering and drinks costs was \$331 (GST exclusive) as per the itemised list below.

Minister for Health

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost (GST exclusive)
11-Dec-13	Parliament House, Canberra	Announcement of Breast Cancer Nurses funding	\$331

3. Hospitality and entertainment have the same definition under the Department's Finance Business Rules, which are consistent with the Australian Taxation Office ruling regarding entertainment by way of food or drink. Refer to Question SQ14-739 (1).
4. Nil.
5. and 6.
Corporate systems do not allow for this information to be collected in one report. Therefore, to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.
7. and 8.
Hospitality and entertainment have the same definition under the Department's Finance Business Rules. Refer to responses at 1.and 2.
9. The Department continues to seek to reduce and minimise expenditure on hospitality, for example utilising the Departments' own facilities including video conferencing facility which were implemented in early 2012 where possible and appropriate. The Department does not specifically budget in the forward estimates by this class of expenditure.