

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 21 NOVEMBER 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Meeting Costs

**Question reference number:** HS 25

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 24 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

- a) What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from 7 September 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) 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.
- d) 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:**

- a) The department's spending on meetings is included in the combined hospitality, food and beverage expenditure as per Question on Notice (QON) on *Hospitality and Entertainment* (refer HS26). For the period 7 September 2013 to 30 November 2013 the combined hospitality food and beverage expenditure was \$59,830. This includes expenditure on tea, coffee and biscuits for community support services such as Financial Information Service seminars and CRS Australia customer meetings.  
It would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide details of the date, location, purpose and cost of meetings.
- b) This data is not readily available and compilation of the answer would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- c) The meeting spend for the department for the 2013-14 financial year is forecast at \$800,000. Due to the large amount of information required to provide details for dates, location, purpose and cost of individual events, the preparation of an answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- d) This data is not readily available and compilation of the answer would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.