

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 156

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. What has been the Department/Agency's hospitality spend including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What has been the Department/Agency's entertainment spend? 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. 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?

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Answer:

1. The Department's official hospitality expenditure from 1 June 2014 to 31 August 2014 was \$8,374.23 (ex GST).
2. The Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretary's offices costs are managed by the Department of Finance (Finance) and therefore this question should be directed to Finance.
3. The Department does not entertain. Costs for official hospitality are provided in the response to question one (1) above.
4. The Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretary's offices costs are managed by Finance and therefore this question should be directed to Finance.
5. Official hospitality is used for business purposes, when required and may include expenditure on planned events across Australia to recognise important and significant dates such as:
 - Australia Day Awards
 - National Families Week
 - Seniors Week
 - Mental Health Week
 - International Day for People with Disability
 - White Ribbon Day
 - Donate Life Week
 - Carers Week

The level of detailed event information requested is not readily available for the Department. To identify this information would require a significant diversion of resources.

6. The Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretary's offices costs are managed by Finance and therefore this question should be directed to Finance.
7. The Department does not entertain. Information relating to the Department's planned official hospitality expenditure is provided in the response to question five (5) above.
8. The Ministers' and Parliamentary Secretary's offices costs are managed by Finance and therefore this question should be directed to Finance.
9. The Department's use of funds for the purpose of providing official hospitality is only when required for business purposes.