

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 169
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Meeting costs
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 19 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How much has the Department/Agency spent on meeting costs? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
3. 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.
4. 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:

1. The Department and its Agencies do not track planned meeting expenditure within their budgetary and finance systems therefore this information is not readily available.
2. The Department did not meet the cost of meetings for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary in relation to their portfolio responsibilities for meeting costs during the period from 15 September 2015 to 31 December 2015.

Details of expenditure on entitlements is compiled every six months in a report titled Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance. The reports and supporting information are published on the Finance website.

While the Minister may attend meetings in relation to their portfolio responsibilities, the Department does not track meeting expenditure separately so this information is not available.

3. Please see Question 1 response.
4. Please see Question 2 response.