

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 85

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Senator Ludwig, Joe 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?

Answer:

- 1-4. Details of the Department's and Minister and Parliamentary Secretary Office's hospitality expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 31 October 2014 is provided in the table below. The Department's financial management system does not allow for a distinction between spending on 'hospitality' and 'entertainment'. Any entertainment expenses will be included within the total hospitality expense.

Date	Location	Purpose	Total (GST Excl)
Department of Communications			
13/5/14	Geneva, Switzerland	International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council Meeting	\$3,696.41

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Date	Location	Purpose	Total (GST Excl)
9/7/14	Auckland, New Zealand	2014 Korea Australia New Zealand Summit	4,480.49
14/8/14	Sydney	Catering for ABC SBS Board Appointments Nomination Panel.	\$418.64
21/8/14	Sydney	Meeting with NBN executives to discuss review of NBN Corporate Plan	\$373.64
Minister and Parliamentary Secretary Office			
7/5/2014	Bern, Switzerland	Working dinner with attendees from Swiss Telecoms – Australia-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Officials from the Australian Embassy in Berlin.	\$742.73

- 5, 7. The Department does not currently have any hospitality or entertainment planned.
- 6, 8. The Department is not aware of any planned expenses relating to hospitality or entertainment for the offices of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.
9. The Department has no specific plans to reduce its spending on these items.