

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: Australian Taxation Office

Question: AET 350-358

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Reference: written - 19 January 2016

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

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

350. What has been the Department/Agency's hospitality spend including any catering and drinks costs.

351. 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.

352. What has been the Department/Agency's entertainment spend? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

353. 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.

354. 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.

355. 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.

356. 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.

357. 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.

358. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

350. For the period 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016, ATO expenditure on official hospitality was \$19,975 (GST exclusive).

351. The ATO does not provide official hospitality or entertainment for the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary Office.

352. For the period 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016, ATO expenditure on entertainment was \$4,731 (GST exclusive).

The table below contains details of the date, location, purpose and cost.

Posting Date	Location	Purpose	GST exclusive amount (\$)
17/11/2015	Brisbane	Alcohol for official Gateway Operators Group (GOG) for Superstream function.	70
23/11/2015	London	Attendance at Business Continuity Conference in London (includes 2 days of attendance and Gala dinner).	2,232
23/11/2015	Canberra	2015 Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) ACT Conference including dinner.	850
25/11/2015	Melbourne	Dinner after Advisory Meeting for 10 attendees. Held 5th November 2015.	558
10/12/2015	Sydney	Farewell Dinner for retiring external General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) Panel member (8 attendees).	721
21/12/2015	Brisbane	6 attendees at Australian Government Leadership Network (AGLN) Executive breakfast	300

353. The ATO does not provide official hospitality or entertainment for the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary Office.
354. The ATO's internal budget system does not provide information at the requested level of detail.
355. Refer to 351 above.
356. Refer to 354 above.
357. Refer to 351 above.
358. The bulk of the ATO's expenditure for hospitality and entertainment expenses is incurred in hosting international visits; the ATO keeps the costs associated with international visits to a minimum by running multilateral events that many countries from the region can attend. The requests for visits to the ATO are considerably greater than those agreed to by the ATO each year.