

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

5 June 2013

Question: BET 1006-1010

Topic: Hospitality & Entertainment (ATO)

Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

- 1006. What is the department/agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail the date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- 1007. What hospitality spend is the department/agency planning on spending? Detail the date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- 1008. What is the department/agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail the date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- 1009. What entertainment spend is the department/agency planning on spending? Detail the date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- 1010. Is the department/agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?

Answer:

1006. The ATO does not account for hospitality and entertainment expenses separately. Official hospitality covers all hospitality and entertainment expenses incurred by the ATO.

In 2012-13 to 31 May 2013, ATO expenditure on official hospitality was \$9,886 excluding GST. The table below contains details of the date, location, purpose and cost.

DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE	COST (\$)
10/07/2012	MacGregor State High school, Brisbane	Catering – launch of Tax, Super + you – an ATO developed digital curriculum for students	746
19/07/2012	Canberra	Gift – flowers for external presenter - Progress Super Reform workshop	23
20/07/2012	Sydney	Official lunch – Tax and Customs Administration of the Netherlands	399
3/09/2012	Sydney	Official dinner – US Internal Revenue Service	530
4/09/2012	ATO Office - Perth	Catering – Australian Government Leaders Network	157
25/09/2012	ATO Office - Canberra	Gifts – external speakers - Tax Policy Design conference	102
20/09/2012	Sydney	Official dinner – US Internal Revenue Service	879
9/10/2012	Melbourne	Gift – wine for external presenters - Warrant of seizure and safe seminar	45
29/10/2012	Brisbane	Official dinner – Japanese Revenue delegation	476
5/11/2012	Thailand	Gift – international delegation in Thailand	418
12/11/2012	Melbourne	Gift – wine presented to external barristers for providing presentation on mediation	52
15/11/2012	Melbourne	Gift – wine presented to facilitator for CAS senior management conference	38
15/11/2012	Melbourne	Gift – wine presented to guest speakers at superannuation leadership conference	65
4/12/2012	Beijing, China	Official dinner – State Administration of Taxation – People’s Republic of China	344
24/01/2013	Canberra	Working lunch – ATO and Treasury CEO’s	174

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DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE	COST (\$)
31/01/2013	Chicago, USA	Official dinner – US Internal Revenue Service	281
11/02/2013	Canberra	Official dinner – New Zealand Internal Revenue Department	330
11/03/2013	Sydney	Gift – wine presented to Law Society members for providing presentation	39
19/03/2013	Canberra	Official dinner – Commissioner hand over meeting	248
20/3/2013	Canberra	Official dinner – Commissioners networking meeting with Treasury and ATO executive	1,313
21/03/2013	Melbourne	Official dinner – Brisbane group meeting with international revenue agencies	2,362
3/04/2013	Sydney	Official dinner – Australian Government Leadership Network	351
18/04/2013	Sydney	Official dinner – Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Advisory Board	366
14/05/2013	Adelaide	Official dinner – Australian Government Leadership Network	37
24/05/2013	Sydney	Gift – translators presented to State Administration of Taxation of China	109
TOTAL			9,884

1007. The ATO's internal budget does not provide information at the requested level of detail.

ATO hospitality and entertainment includes gifts for external speakers and catering for visiting international tax officials as part of the ATO's commitment to international collaboration and continuing best practice in tax administration.

1008. Refer to BET 1006 above.

1009. Refer to BET 1007 above.

1010. The ATO keeps the costs for international visits to a minimum by running multilateral events that many countries from the region can attend. The number of requests for visits to the ATO are considerably higher than those that the ATO agrees to each year.