

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

**Outcome Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000199**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

*Also refer to previous Question Nos. ED0413\_15 and ED0416\_15*

***Disparities in catering cost***

**Question**

"Can you confirm that the Legislation and Financing Working Group the department established met six times, and the Quality, Deregulation and Information Working Group met only three times?  
Nevertheless, can you explain the disparities in the two groups' expenses for catering. Why did the Legislation group have a catering bill of \$3,651 while the Quality group only spent \$92 on catering?"

**Answer**

The difference in the costs is attributable to differences in the number of times the groups meet face-to-face and the choice of venue for the meeting.

The Legislation and Financing Working Group met four times face-to-face, three times at the Park Royal at Melbourne Airport and once at departmental premises in Canberra. As indicated in the response *ED0416\_15*, \$3651 of the cost associated with these meetings was for venue hire. Catering for the meetings cost \$921.75. Catering included morning or afternoon tea and lunch at conference venue rates.

The Quality, Deregulation and Information Working Group met face-to-face only once. This meeting was at the department so no venue costs were incurred and catering costs were minimal (\$92).