

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000402

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Staff Awards

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

1. Has the Department / Agency given out awards to staff for any reason? If yes:
 - a. What was the reason for the awards?
 - b. What was the criteria for the awards?
 - c. What form did the award take? (e.g. Certificate, gift vouchers etc)
 - d. How much was spent on the award?
2. How were the awards presented?
3. Who presented the awards?
4. Was there a ceremony or party for the awards? If yes:
 - a. Where was it held?
 - b. Was there a fee for the venue? If yes, how much?
 - c. How much was spent on catering?
 - d. How many people attended?
 - e. Did the minister attend?
 - f. Did the minister's staff attend? If yes, how many?

Answer

The department's annual Secretary's Achievement Awards (the Awards) were held in October 2015. The Awards recognise individuals and teams who deliver outstanding achievements and who demonstrate exemplary behaviours in delivering our business.

Award categories include excellence in delivery, innovation, collaboration and people leadership. The Awards also recognise significant contributions to assisting people with a disability to achieve their goals and promoting an inclusive society, and to closing the gap in disadvantage between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians.

In 2015 Award recipients received a trophy, certificate and/or pen which cost in total \$2,592. Approximately 170 employees attended the Award ceremony held on departmental premises with other employees able to view the ceremony through their desktop computer. The department's Secretary presented the Awards and a light afternoon tea followed the ceremony. Catering costs were \$461. Neither the Minister nor any of her staff attended the ceremony.