

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

**Outcome/Program:**

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

**Topic:** Meeting Costs

**Senator:** Senator Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 365

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

- (1) What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- (2) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- (3) What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- (4) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs?

**Answer:**

- (1) The Office does not generally facilitate meetings of a nature that requires venue hire or catering and therefore does not record information at this level. Meetings are generally held within our own premises and are only catered where external parties are present and provision of reasonable sustenance is appropriate. For the period 1 February 2014 to 31 May 2014 the Office has spent \$2,050.91 on meeting costs. The details are provided below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
4 April 2014	Pacific Ombudsman Alliance members meeting	Red Ochre Grill, Adelaide, SA	Food and drink	\$2,050.91

- (2) The Office does not provide meeting support to Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices.
- (3) At this point in time the Office has no planned meeting spend.
- (4) The Office does not provide meeting support to Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices.