

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Office for Women – CSW exercise costs

Senator: Senator Claire Moore

Question reference number: 83

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator MOORE: Can we get, on notice, a breakdown of that cost?

Ms McDevitt: I have that here. To date, it is approximately \$58,000. Of that, departmental officer travel was \$22,000. Non-government delegate travel was \$23,934. The side event costs were \$11,965.

Senator MOORE: Can we also get a comparison over the last two just to have a look at what they cost, because I know that they have always been tightly budgeted—just in terms of our processes?

Ms McDevitt: Yes, and this was a smaller delegation than in previous years. We can get those figures for you.

Answer:

As at 11 June 2014, actual costs incurred by the Department in relation to Australia's attendance at CSW58, is \$53,447.58 (departmental and administered funds). The difference between the approximation given in transcript is because not all invoices had been received at that point. In addition, invoices have not been received for a range of items related to side events that the Department had originally budgeted for, such as AV services and utility charges for the Pacific side event.

The breakdown of this expenditure is:

- CSW side events (hosted by Australia) - \$6,350;
- Departmental Travel-\$23,163.24; and
- Non-government representatives Travel - \$23,934.34.

In comparison, expenditure by the Office for Women, previously under the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, for attending CSW for the previous two years was:

- CSW57 (2012-13) - \$124,212.97

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- CSW side events (hosted by Australia) - \$2,855.95
- Departmental Travel - \$36,502.19
- Non-government representatives Travel - \$84,854.83

- CSW56 (2011-12) - \$117,089.36
 - CSW side events (hosted by Australia) - \$2,168.70
 - Departmental Travel - \$43,967.09
 - Non-government representatives Travel - \$70,953.57