

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
27-28 May 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Overseas travel entitlements – Office of the Attorney General and Minister for the Arts

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F98

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

With reference to the Expenditure on Entitlements Paid by the Department of Finance for the Senator the Hon George Brandis QC Final Report from 1 Jan to 30 June 2014.

1. In relation to overseas travel expenditure amounting to \$48,412.57 for the Attorney to attend the high level meetings on national security in the UK and the USA.
 - a) Please itemise this expenditure.
 - b) How many personal employees travelled in advance of the Attorney?
 - c) How many personal and departmental employees accompanied the Attorney and what was their classification?
 - d) Please itemise expenditure amounting to \$11,061.08 spent on accommodation and meals –
 - i. Please itemise this expenditure.
 - ii. Was an amount of the subtotal (if any) was spent on official hospitality and dining at restaurants and how many times did this occur?
 - iii. If so, how much money was spent on wine or alcoholic beverages and on what label and vintage?
 - iv. If so, please provide the relevant guest lists for official hospitality.
2. Referring to media statement from the Office of the Attorney General and Minister for the Arts dated 6 of May 2015 ‘Australian Pavilion at Venice Biennale.’
 - a) Please itemise all expenditure.
 - b) How much was spent on accommodation and meals?
 - c) How many personal staff travelled in advance of the Attorney and what was their classification?
 - d) How many personal staff accompanied the Attorney and what was their classification?
 - e) How much was spent on accommodation and meals.
 - i. Please itemise this expenditure.

- ii. What amount of the subtotal (if any) was spent on hospitality, dining at restaurants or hotels and how many times did this occur?
 - iii. If so, how much money was spent on wine or alcoholic beverages and on what type?
 - iv. If so, please provide the relevant guest lists.
- 3. Please itemise all, ministerial and personal employee overseas travel from 30 June 2014 to Budget Estimates with the location and country, date, total amount spent and the purpose of the travel.
- 4. Pursuant to question 3, please provide the following supplementary information.
 - a) How much was spent on accommodation and meals?
 - b) How many personal staff travelled in advance of the Attorney and what was their classification?
 - c) How many personal staff accompanied the Attorney and what was their classification?
 - d) How much was spent on accommodation and meals.
 - i. Please itemise this expenditure.
 - ii. What amount of the subtotal (if any) was spent on hospitality, dining at restaurants or hotels and how many times did this occur?
 - iii. If so, how much money was spent on wine or alcoholic beverages and on what type?
 - iv. If so, please provide the relevant guest lists.

Answer:

- 1.
 - a) To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
 - b) None.
 - c) One personal employee accompanied the Attorney General. Finance does not report on or pay for costs for employees from the Attorney-General's Department.
 - d)
 - i. - ii. Refer to part 1 a).
 - iii. Personal staff travel entitlement does not cover the cost of alcohol.
 - iv. The department does not hold this information.
- 2.
 - a) – b). Refer to part 1 a).
 - c) No personal staff travelled in advance of the Attorney.
 - d) One personal employee.
 - e)
 - i. – iii. Refer to part 1 a).
 - iv. Refer to part 1 d), iv.
- 3. Refer to part 1 a).
- 4.
 - a) – d) ii. Refer to part 1 a).
 - iii. Refer to part 1 d), iii.
 - iv. Refer to part 1 d), iv.