

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**Additional Estimates – May 2015**

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**Program 1:** Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

**Outcome 1:** The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

**Topic:** Expenditure of official hospitality

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** 102

**Type of Question:** Hansard

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

**Number of Pages:** 3

**Senator WONG:** If I may Mr Fraser, given that we know the Governor-General hosts functions, how would you like it phrased such that we are able to get an answer to the costs of those functions, rather than getting into a lawyer's argument, some might say a pedant's argument, about the difference between the Office of the Governor-General, or was it the Official Secretary of the Governor-General and the Governor-General himself because I assume he does not actually pay out of his own pocket. So how would you like it phrased so I actually get a response?

**Mr Fraser:** If you would like to direct the question to that and ask for the hospitality costs relating to functions hosted by the Governor-General.

**Senator WONG:** Thank you.

**Mr Fraser:** We would take that on notice.

**Senator WONG:** Can I please have the cost of hospitality of functions hosted by the Governor-General for the current financial year to date and the previous financial year.

**Answer:**

Each year, around 40,000 guests visit Government House and Admiralty House. Guests include visiting Heads of State, foreign officials, community leaders, representatives of the many organisations of which the Governor-General and Lady Cosgrove are Patron, school students and members of the public during scheduled open days.

The format of hospitality offered by the Governor-General varies depending on the nature of the event. One of the primary principles in planning is to ensure that the arrangements for a function

best meet the business and operational needs with the most efficient and effective use of resources.

The Office does not record details of the cost of hospitality on a function by function basis, and it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to collate. However the tables below provide an estimate of the food and beverage costs, per function type, for functions hosted by the Governor-General at Government House and Admiralty House, based on an average cost per head for each function type.

**2014-2015 (as at 31 May)**

<b>Function type</b>	<b>Number of functions</b>	<b>Number of guests</b>	<b>Average estimated cost per head</b>	<b>Estimated total cost per function type (based on average cost per head)</b>
Breakfasts	1	5	\$8.50	\$42.50
Lunches	19	660	\$45.00	\$29,700.00
Dinners	20	463	\$59.50	\$27,548.50
Receptions	67	5,942	\$29.50	\$175,289.00
Investitures	7	315	\$28.00	\$8,820.00
Ceremonies	8	111	\$22.50	\$2,497.50
School Visits	311	18,199	Not applicable	Not applicable
Open days and Other Groups	15	8,083	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>33,778</b>		<b>\$243,897.50</b>

**2013-2014**

<b>Function type</b>	<b>Number of functions</b>	<b>Number of guests</b>	<b>Average estimated cost per head</b>	<b>Estimated total cost per function type (based on average cost per head)</b>
Breakfasts	1	25	\$7.50	\$187.50
Lunches	14	555	\$43.50	\$24,142.50

Dinners	11	806	\$58.50	\$47,151.00
Receptions	51	3,849	\$29.00	\$111,621.00
Investitures	10	768	\$27.00	\$20,736.00
Ceremonies	6	312	\$22.50	\$7,020.00
School Visits	358	19,590	Not applicable	Not applicable
Open days and Other Groups	17	17,712 <sup>1</sup>	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>43,617</b>		<b>\$210,858.00</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Includes 15,000 guests hosted at Government House for the Centenary Family Picnic Day, on 21 September 2013.