

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES (SUPPLEMENTARY HEARINGS) 2013-2014**

**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:** 174

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 17 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

- (1) What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from 7 September 2013 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 7 September 2013 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. To answer this question further would involve an unreasonable diversion of Office resources.

- (2) The Office does not provide meeting support to Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices.
- (3) The Office does not record information at this level and therefore, to answer this question would involve an unreasonable diversion of Office resources.
- (4) The Office does not provide meeting support to Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices.