

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 2: Indigenous  
**Topic:** Community Cabinet – visits to Indigenous communities

**Senator:** Senator Dean Smith

**Question reference number:** 41

**Type of question:** FPA Friday 24 October 2014, pages 18 & 19

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 5 December 2014

**Number of pages:** 4

**Question:**

Senator SMITH: Are you able to give us a snapshot of, perhaps, Prime Minister Rudd's visits to Indigenous communities, Prime Minister Gillard's visits to Indigenous communities and Prime Minister Abbott's visits to Indigenous communities?

Ms Carroll: I would not have the list of the previous Prime Ministers with me.

Senator SMITH: Then perhaps you could take that on notice.

Senator Scullion: Just for usefulness, you may not be aware that there were five cabinet ministers, three assistant ministers and two parliamentary secretaries who were also there, visiting outstations and those sorts of processes. We would be more than happy to include those details in the answer.

Senator SMITH: It would be interesting to know the length of time, as well, that the current Prime Minister and previous prime ministers had spent in Indigenous communities rather than just visiting them. Can you tell me how much the previous government committed to its community cabinet program?

Ms Carroll: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator SMITH: I think it was close to \$10.9 million, but could you take that on notice. Could you also detail for me what the cost was of the Yirrkala community cabinet?

Ms Carroll: From the previous government?

Senator SMITH: Yes.

Ms Carroll: Again, I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

While the Department understands that former Prime Ministers Rudd and Gillard did visit Indigenous communities from time to time, the Department has no records on the domestic travel programme, including visits to Indigenous communities, for former Prime Ministers Rudd or Gillard. All these travel arrangements were funded by the Department of Finance.

\$16.990 million was allocated for the Community Cabinet program from 2007-08 to 2012-13.

Details of the cost of the Community Cabinet meeting held at Yirrkala in July 2008 was provided in response to Senate Estimates question PM23 for the Supplementary Budget Estimates in October 2008 (copy at Attachment A).

The Department is not aware of any former PM spending such a significant amount of time in one remote Indigenous community before.

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 - 23 Oct 2008**



**Question: PM23**

**Outcome 1, Output 5**

**Topic: Community Cabinet - Launceston meeting costs breakdown**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 68**

**Senator Trood asked: You have given me the aggregate figures in relation to all of these. I am sure you would need to do this on notice, but perhaps you could provide me with a breakdown of the costs in relation to each of the community cabinets-travel, accommodation, advertising et cetera.**

**Dr Southern-Yes.**

**Senator TROOD-And any costs that have been borne to date with regard to the Launceston meeting.**

**Dr Southern-Yes, will do.**

**Answer: The payments made in relation to the eight Community Cabinet meetings held to date are set out in the attached table.**



**COMMUNITY CABINET MEETING COSTS**

Estimated as at 10 November 2008

| Cost item   | CANNING<br>VALE, WA<br>JAN 08 | NARANGBA<br>QLD<br>MAR 08 | PENRITH<br>NSW<br>APR 08 | MACKAY<br>QLD<br>JUN 08 | YIRKALA<br>NT<br>JUL 08 | HALLETT<br>COYE, SA<br>AUG 08 | NEWCASTLE<br>NSW<br>SEPT 08 | LAUNCESTON<br>TAS<br>NOV 08 |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Staff travel and accommodation costs</i>                   |                               |                           |                          |                         |                         |                               |                             |                             |
| Travel  | \$44,233.10                   | \$19,626.69               | \$4,065.65               | \$20,448.39             | \$34,952.38             | \$13,853.24                   | \$10,393.81                 | \$13,958.34                 |
| Accommodation   | \$5,435.30                    | \$8,504.50                | \$3,750.00               | \$3,672.00              | \$6,332.38              | \$5,564.96                    | \$3,244.25                  | TBC                         |
| Other expenses  | \$1,034.18                    | \$1,838.85                | \$1,163.93               | \$1,180.24              | \$1,460.38              | \$597.95                      | \$1,366.87                  | TBC                         |
| <i>Venue, advertising, contractors and materials expenses</i> |                               |                           |                          |                         |                         |                               |                             |                             |
| Venue costs   | \$3,050.00                    | \$5,675.00                | \$2,041.00               | \$8,562.35              | \$9,560.00              | \$1,700.00                    | \$2,453.20                  | \$4,000.00                  |
| event parking   | \$0.00                        | \$1,000.00                | \$158.00                 | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                        | \$0.00                      | \$0.00                      |
| newspapers  | \$7,819.22                    | \$1,821.95                | \$3,274.44               | \$1,613.15              | \$726.00                | \$4,389.40                    | \$4,468.75                  | \$3,500.00                  |
| Contractors   | \$3,227.73                    | \$3,030.00                | \$8,181.80               | \$7,949.70              | \$0.00                  | \$7,872.70                    | \$7,958.50                  | \$8,673.66                  |
| hire equipment  | \$0.00                        | \$0.00                    | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                        | \$5,657.60                  | \$5,362.00                  |
| webpage   | \$4,995.50                    | \$3,810.87                | \$301.88                 | \$1,676.13              | \$289.46                | \$34.50                       | \$40.25                     | TBC                         |
| security  | \$0.00                        | \$1,232.00                | \$0.00                   | \$330.00                | \$1,190.00              | \$13,687.05                   | TBC                         | TBC                         |
| freight   | \$1,104.37                    | \$114.73                  | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                        | \$4,256.29                  | TBC                         |
| communications  | \$746.40                      | \$746.40                  | \$746.40                 | \$746.40                | \$746.40                | \$746.40                      | \$746.40                    | \$746.40                    |
| catering  | \$2,115.00                    | \$10,170.00               | \$5,445.00               | (see venue hire)        | \$9,662.40              | \$4,800.00                    | \$5,173.32                  | \$2,962.00                  |
| photography   | \$0.00                        | \$5,067.60                | \$3,719.27               | \$4,993.74              | \$4,227.13              | \$4,037.63                    | \$4,269.07                  | \$3,850.00                  |
| AUSLAN interpreters   | \$255.20                      | \$522.50                  | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                  | \$420.00                | \$0.00                        | \$0.00                      | \$0.00                      |
| musicians   | \$825.00                      | \$0.00                    | \$100.00                 | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                        | \$0.00                      | \$0.00                      |
| Welcome to Country  | \$250.00                      | \$0.00                    | \$0.00                   | \$100.00                | \$420.00                | \$0.00                        | \$150.00                    | \$0.00                      |
| stationery, other misc  | \$2,921.44                    | \$1,730.54                | \$429.94                 | \$2,897.88              | \$4,908.10              | \$602.43                      | \$861.64                    | \$485.26                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$78,012.44</b>            | <b>\$64,891.65</b>        | <b>\$39,577.31</b>       | <b>\$34,169.98</b>      | <b>\$74,894.63</b>      | <b>\$57,886.26</b>            | <b>\$51,039.95</b>          | <b>\$43,537.66</b>          |