

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Supplementary Estimates – October 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:** Cost of hospitality and functions hosted by the Governor-General

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** 40

**Type of Question:** Hansard

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 December 2015

**Number of Pages:** 3

**Senator WONG:** You might need to take this on notice—can I have the cost of hospitality and functions hosted by the Governor-General for the current financial year to date, and a final total for the previous year. I think in May you gave me costs to that point. Can you update that on notice.

**Mr Fraser:** I am happy to take that on notice.

**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 overriding considerations 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 such. 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.

**2015-2016 (as at 31 October)**

<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	0	0	\$8.50	\$0
Lunches	6	95	\$45.00	\$4,275
Dinners	2	170	\$59.50	\$10,115
Receptions	27	1,824	\$29.50	\$53,808
Investitures	3	445	\$28.00	\$12,460
Ceremonies	4	174	\$22.50	\$3,915
School Visits	148	7,461	Not applicable	Not applicable
Open days and Other Groups	4	5,929	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>16,098</b>		<b>\$84,573</b>

**2014-2015**

<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	21	696	\$45.00	\$31,320.00
Dinners	24	597	\$59.50	\$35,521.50
Receptions	76	6,513	\$29.50	\$192,133.50
Investitures	7	315	\$28.00	\$8,820.00
Ceremonies	8	111	\$22.50	\$2,497.50
School Visits	349	20,283	Not applicable	Not applicable

Open days and Other Groups	18	8,205	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>36,725</b>		<b>\$270,335.00</b>