

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 1

Program: Whole-of-Portfolio

Question No. SBE14/116

Senator Ludwig asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. What has been the Department/Agency's hospitality spend including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary's office, please detail total hospitality spend. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What has been the Department/Agency's entertainment spend? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
5. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
6. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
7. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
8. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
9. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. The portfolio comprises of the Attorney-General's Department, and thirty one agencies. Due to size of the portfolio, to attempt to provide the level of detail requested from the portfolio would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

The Department and applicable portfolio agencies manage hospitality expenditure in accordance with obligations under the Commonwealth's financial framework, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

2. The hospitality spend for the Attorney-General's Office for the period 31 May 2014 to 11 December 2014 was approximately \$1,333.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost (GST excl.)
10/09/2014	Parliament House	Briefing to the Attorney-General on the Foreign Fighters Legislation from AGD, AFP and security services representatives	\$55
15/10/2014	ARIA Restaurant, Brisbane	Working lunch with NZ AG and bilateral discussions relating to national security	\$1,278

- The hospitality spend for the Minister for Justice's Office for the period 31 May 2014 to 11 December 2014 was approximately \$4,473.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost (GST excl.)
04/06/2014	Parliament House	Function with the Police Federation of Australia	\$3,340
16/07/2014	Parliament House	Farewell drinks and food for ACLEI Integrity Commissioner, Mr Phillip Moss	\$250
17/07/2014	Parliament House	Launch of the new AFP Association Software Platform	\$117
02/09/2014	Parliament House	Farewell drinks and food for AFP Commissioner, Mr Tony Negus	\$765

3. To attempt to provide the level of detail requested for the portfolio would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.
4. See response to question 2.
5. To attempt to provide the level of detail requested for the portfolio would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.
6. Any expenditure will occur, as required, during the normal course of the minister's activities.
7. To attempt to provide the level of detail requested for the portfolio would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.
8. See response to question 6.
9. Decisions to incur expenditure of this type are based on an assessment of expenditure being modest, within budget, and appropriate to the circumstances. There is no plan to change this approach.