

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 144
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: Portfolio wide – Christmas party costs
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 7 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

List what functions were held by the department/agency for either Christmas or end of calendar year since 7 September 2013

- a) What was the cost of each of these functions?
- b) How was the money identified?
- c) What was the location of these functions?
- d) Provide a table of food and alcohol purchased for the function

Answer:

1. The Department held a Christmas party on 13 December 2013 that was organised by the agency Social Club.
 - a) The event cost around \$24,000. Departmental funding of \$8,000 was used to pay for hire of the venue, tables, and seating and for transport of staff to and from the site.
 - b) The Departmental contribution was sourced from corporate funding in the 2012-13 financial year.
 - c) The function was held at the Old Bus Depot in Kingston, ACT.
 - d) No food or alcohol was purchased with Departmental funds.
2. The National Water Commission held a function that was fully funded by the agency Social Club, with no contribution from the Agency.
3. The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust held a Christmas party for tenants, volunteers and community stakeholders.
 - e) The cost was \$10,320.00 (GST inc).
 - f) The money was budgeted and allocated at its own cost code.
 - g) The function was held at North Head Sanctuary, Manly.

- h) The function was held at a function centre where food (canapés) and beverage (wine, beer and soft drink) was provided as part of a catering package.
4. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority hosted an end of year afternoon tea for all staff at the conclusion of the Authority meeting on 3 December 2013.
 - a) \$269.51
 - b) The money was sourced from within Corporate funding.
 - c) The office of the Murray Darling Basin Authority at 51 Allara Street, Canberra.
 - d) Food purchased for the function included plates of savouries, cheese and crackers, fresh fruit platters, juice and soft drinks. No alcohol was purchased or provided for this function.
 5. The Clean Energy Regulator held a function that was fully funded by the agency Social Club, with no contribution from the Agency.
 6. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held a function that was fully funded by the agency Social Club, with no contribution from the Agency.
 7. The Climate Change Authority held a function that was fully funded by the agency Social Club, with no contribution from the Agency.
 8. The Director of National Parks did not hold a function.
 9. The Bureau of Meteorology held a function that was fully funded by the agency Social Club, with no contribution from the Agency.