

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES (ADDITIONAL 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: 179

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- (1) What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 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 Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 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. For the period 1 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 the Office has spent \$6,404.23 on meeting costs. The details are

provided below:

Date	Purpose	Location	Item	Cost
18 December 2013 (full day)	SES Planning Session	Institute of Chartered Accountants	Venue Hire	\$765.00
19 December 2013 (half day)			Planning Session facilitated by People & Strategy (ACT) Pty Ltd	\$5,639.23
			Total	\$6,404.23

(2) The Office does not provide meeting support to Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices.

(3) The Office has one planned meeting. Details are provided below:

Date	Purpose	Location	Item	Indicative Cost
4 April 2014	Pacific Ombudsman Alliance members meeting	Adelaide Oval	Venue hire	\$1,725
		Red Ochre Grill, Adelaide, SA	Food and drink	\$3,000
			Total	\$4,725

(4) The Office does not provide meeting support to Minister or Parliamentary Secretary offices.