

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26-27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(114) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

- (1) What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?
- (2) Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

(1) The Department's recorded expenditure on Hospitality during the period 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010 was \$168,717.84 (GST exclusive). Of this amount, \$70,449.54 (exclusive of GST and other taxes), relates to Hospitality performed overseas.

(2) The Department's expenditure on Hospitality relates to activities and functions that would be expected of an immigration and citizenship agency. The reported expenditure includes the following types of items:

- Functions involving overseas government department representatives and business representatives.
- Hosting official ceremonies such as Australia Day and Citizenship ceremonies.
- Hosting functions such as International Women's Day, Harmony Day, national days, such as Waitangi Day and community days at Migrant Centres.
- Hosting functions involving NGO's (Australian Red Cross & International Organisation of Migration), UNHCR and overseas Law Enforcement Agencies.

Due to the current structure of our general ledger codes and our financial reporting systems, detailing dates, location, purpose and the cost of individual events would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Proposed changes to reporting which will come into effect on 1 July 2010 will provide greater transparency around this expenditure.