

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

Group Corporate

Question No. 100

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:

Hospitality and entertainment

- a) What is the Department's hospitality spend for this all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What is the Department's entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- e) What hospitality spend is the Department planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- f) 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.
- g) What entertainment spend is the Department planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- h) 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.
- i) Is the Department planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?

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

For the period 7 September 2013 – 18 November 2013 please see below.

- a) The Department's hospitality and entertainment spend during the period 7 September 2013 to 18 November 2013 including catering and drinks costs was \$1,665.22 and is detailed in the table below:

Date of Function	Location	Purpose	Total Cost (ex-GST)
22 October 2013	Jakarta	Official lunch in Indonesia with delegates from the Indonesian Attorney-General's Office	\$175.95
28 October 2013	ACT	Official lunch with German Ambassador	\$165.18
28 October 2013	Queensland	Official lunch with member of the Japanese Computer Emergency Response Team and an officer from the Queensland University of Technology	\$51.91
11 November 2013	ACT	Official dinner with representatives of the Critical Five from the USA, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom	\$791.36
12 November 2013	ACT	Official lunch with delegates from the Indonesian Attorney-General's Office	\$116.27
13 November 2013	ACT	Official dinner with delegates from the Indonesian Attorney-General's Office	\$364.55
			\$1,665.22

- b) Ministerial hospitality and entertainment spend during the period 7 September 2013 to 18 November 2013 including catering and drinks costs was \$977.56 and is detailed in the table below:

Date of Function	Location	Purpose	Total Cost (ex-GST)
9 October 2013	New South Wales	Official dinner in honour of the New Zealand Minister for Justice and her senior officials on the occasion of the 2013 Standing Council on Law and Justice meeting in Sydney	\$682.00
18 November 2013	ACT	Function for members of the Creative Partnerships Australia Board prior to the 2013 Creative Partnerships Australia National Awards	\$295.56
			\$977.56

- c) Please see answer to question a).
- d) Please see answer to question b).
- e) Due to the ad hoc nature of hospitality there are no specific plans in place for departmental or ministerial hospitality or entertainment, however it is expected these will be provided during the normal course of conduct of the department's activities for the rest of the financial year and the coming financial year.
- f) Please see answer to question e).
- g) Please see answer to question e).
- h) Please see answer to question e).
- i) There are no specific plans for changes to the current arrangements with hospitality and entertainment expenses.