

**Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network**  
**Answers to Questions on Notice**  
**Public Hearing May 2013**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**NBN Co Limited**

**Question No: 262**

**Program No. NBN Co Limited**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
2. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Is the Department/Agency 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?

**Answer:**

1. Entertainment spend for the period from 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 totalled \$104,725. To provide a detailed breakdown of this figure would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
2. Refer answer to Question 1. Hospitality expenses are included as part of the entertainment expenses.
3. Forecast entertainment spend for the period of 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 is \$116,650.
4. Refer answer to Question 3. Hospitality planned expenses are included as part of the entertainment planned expenses.
5. NBN Co always looks for ways to minimise its hospitality and entertainment expenditure. The company has established policies and procedures to ensure only necessary expenditure is incurred.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
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**NBN Co Limited**

**Question No: 276**

**Program No. NBN Co**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Stationery Requirements**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

**What are the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?**

**Answer:**

**Stationery costs are recorded within 'office supplies and printing' and cannot be easily disaggregated.**

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Question No: 278

Program No: NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Cost

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental/Agency officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
4. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
5. What is the policy for business class airfare tickets? Is there still a reduction in business flights as per the media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State dated 25 September 2012?
6. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
7. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.
8. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

1. NBN Co officers were not involved in travel with the portfolio Ministers or Parliamentary Secretary in the 2012-13 financial year.
2. Travel expenses (excluding entertainment and fleet costs) for the period to 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 totalled \$10.2 million. This included international travel (\$0.2m), domestic travel (\$4.3m), rental cars (\$0.3m), taxis and trains (\$1.7m), parking (\$0.3m), hotels and meals (\$3.3m) and other travel related reimbursements (\$0.1m). A more detailed breakdown would involve an unnecessary diversion of resources. All interstate travel requires appropriate approval prior to bookings being made. All international travel requires CEO approval.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

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Question No: 281

Program No. NBN Co

Hansard Ref: In Writing

**Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
4. The names of all service providers engaged
5. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:
  - a. The name and nature of the service purchased
  - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
  - c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
  - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
  - e. The total amount spent on the service
  - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)
6. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
  - a. The location used
  - b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
  - c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
  - d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

**Answer:**

1. The education expense for the financial year to date as at 31 May 2013 was \$5,271,734. This includes all onboarding, compliance, technical accreditations safety, systems, IT processes training along with leadership, coaching, graduates, media and management training expenses.

2-6 To attempt to disaggregate particular items of expenditure across the entire company or to provide the level of detail requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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**Question No: 282**

**Program No. NBN Co**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Training**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
4. The names of all service providers engaged
5. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:
  - a. The name and nature of the service purchased
  - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
  - c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
  - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
  - e. The total amount spent on the service
  - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)
6. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
  - a. The location used
  - b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
  - c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
  - d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

**Answer:**

The education expense for the financial year to date as at 31 May 2013 was \$5,271,734. This includes all on boarding, compliance, technical accreditations safety, systems, IT processes training along with leadership, coaching, graduates, media and management training expenses.

To attempt to disaggregate particular items of expenditure across the entire company or to provide the level of detail requested would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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**Question No: 289**

**Program No. NBN Co Limited**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Briefing for the Australian Greens and Independents**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to the Australian Greens?  
If yes, please include:
  - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
  - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
  - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
  - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
  - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
2. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:
  - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
  - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
  - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
  - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
  - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
  - f. Which Independents have requested briefings and/or information?

**Answer:**

It is a vital part of NBN Co's communications activities to ensure local communities are informed about the NBN. This can include assisting members of local, state and federal governments with requests for information and briefings on NBN rollout. These requests can be commissioned in a number of ways, including through direct contact with NBN Co stakeholder relations officers or through Ministers' offices. This information can take many forms including background information relating to fibre, satellite or wireless, network rollout information in particular areas, schedules for the demonstration truck, or information relating to communications activities. It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources for NBN Co to attempt to compile a list of each briefing. It is not possible to quantify the time spent on such requests as they form part of the normal business operations for members of the stakeholder relations and communications teams.

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**Question No: 294**

**Program No. NBN Co**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Provision of Equipment**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

**Is electronic equipment (such as iPad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.**

**Answer:**

**NBN Co staff are provided with the necessary equipment to carry out their work. Listing the various pieces of equipment provided to staff and cross-checking this against classification and individual requirements would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.**