

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

PA-Federal Court of Australia

SBE24-065 - Federal Court Events

Senator David Shoebridge asked the following question on 14 November 2024:

1. What was the total amount expended on all events, functions or official receptions, howsoever described, (e.g. judges' welcome/farewell ceremonies, judges' plenaries and other judicial events, registrars' plenaries, engagements with the legal profession etc.) in the 2021-22 financial year?
2. What was the total amount expended on all events, functions or official receptions, howsoever described, (e.g. judges' welcome/farewell ceremonies, judges' plenaries and other judicial events, registrars' plenaries, engagements with the legal profession etc.) in the 2022-23 financial year?
3. What was the total amount expended on all events, functions or official receptions, howsoever described, (e.g. judges' welcome/farewell ceremonies, judges' plenaries and other judicial events, registrars' plenaries, engagements with the legal profession etc.) in the 2023-24 financial year?
4. Of the events, functions or official receptions, howsoever described, that took place in the 2021-22 financial year, please break down the total amount expended by reference to:
 - a) each event, function or official reception (e.g. farewell ceremony for Judge X); and
 - b) the amount expended on each of:
 - i) food/beverages/catering; and
 - ii) venue hire; and
 - iii) remainder of the event (e.g. floral arrangements, music, incidentals).
5. Of the events, functions or official receptions, howsoever described, that took place in the 2022-23 financial year, please break down the total amount expended by reference to:
 - a) each event, function or official reception (e.g. farewell ceremony for Judge X); and
 - b) the amount expended on each of:
 - i) food/beverages/catering; and
 - ii) venue hire; and
 - iii) remainder of the event (e.g. floral arrangements, music, incidentals).
6. Of the events, functions or official receptions, howsoever described, that took place in the 2023-24 financial year, please break down the total amount expended by reference to:
 - a) each event, function or official reception (e.g. farewell ceremony for Judge X); and
 - b) the amount expended on each of:
 - i) food/beverages/catering; and
 - ii) venue hire; and
 - iii) remainder of the event (e.g. floral arrangements, music, incidentals).

The response to the senator’s question is as follows:

Please find below responses for the Federal Court of Australia. These do not include details related to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Divisions 1 and 2) or the National Native Title Tribunal.

1. \$106,236
2. \$173,114
3. \$145,148
4. As to 2021–22, see the following table.

Event Name	Catering	Venue Hire	Other Costs*	Total
WA Practitioners Seminar – WA Registry – 21 September 2021	1,765		99	1,864
Retirement Function - Justice Reeves – Qld Registry – 23 November 2021	1,744			1,744
Employment & Industrial Law Seminar – Qld Registry - 1 December 2021	1,050			1,050
Farewell Ceremony - Justice McKerracher – WA Registry – 3 December 2021	4,997		2,947	7,944
Welcome Ceremony - Justice McElwaine – Tas Registry – 25 February 2022	2,760		3,790	6,550
Farewell Ceremony - Justice Kerr – Tas Registry – 25 February 2022	2,842		2,075	4,917
Farewell Ceremony - Justice Flick – NSW Registry – 4 March 2022	1,312		2,490	3,802
Welcome Ceremony - Justice O'Sullivan - SA Registry – 22 March 2022	2,057		2,991	5,048
Event; Judges, registrars and corporate services staff - NSW Registry - 23 March 2022	287			287
Welcome Ceremony - Justice Downes – Qld Registry – 31 March 2022	3,785		3,394	7,179
Welcome Ceremony - Justice Goodman – NSW Registry – 20 April 2022	1,628		2,585	4,213
Welcome Ceremony - Justice Rofe – Vic Registry – 6 May 2022	4,441		2,182	6,623
Welcome Ceremony - Justice Feutrill – WA Registry – 10 May 2022	5,117		1,339	6,456
Welcome Ceremony – Justice McEvoy – Vic Registry 23 May 2022	2,804		2,181	4,985
National Judges’ Meeting - Adelaide – 25 to 27 May 2022	39,028		1,802	40,830
Welcome Ceremony - Justice Raper - NSW Registry – 10 June 2022	2,293			2,293
National Registrars’ Meeting – Vic Registry - 20 June 2022	450			450

* ‘Other costs’ includes items such as photography, videography, stationery, flowers, personal hygiene items (during the COVID-19 pandemic) and security costs.

5. As to 2022–23, see the following table.

Event Name	Catering	Venue Hire	Other Costs*	Total
Farewell Ceremony – Justice Greenwood – Qld Registry – 15 July 2022	5,824			5,824
Welcome Ceremony – Justice Meagher – Qld Registry – 12 August 2022	1,505		1,800	3,305
Welcome Ceremony – Justice Hespe – Vic Registry – 2 September 2022	1,427		2,245	3,672
Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts – Sydney – 19–21 October 2022	7,371		37,375	44,746
National Judges’ Meeting – 2 December 2022 – Sydney	21,507			21,507
Farewell Ceremony - Justice Middleton – Vic Registry – 8 December 2022	3,065		1,830	4,895
Farewell Ceremony Allsop CJ, Tas Registry – 3 February 2023	1,123			1,123
Welcome Ceremony - Justice Hatcher – NSW Registry – 20 February 2023	457			457
Farewell Ceremony Allsop CJ, SA Registry – 24 February 2023	1,744		1,062	2,806
Farewell Ceremony Allsop CJ, Vic Registry – 8 March 2023	2,824		935	3,759
Farewell Ceremony Allsop CJ, WA Registry – 14 March 2023	1,254		1,218	2,472
Welcome Ceremony - Justice Kennett – NSW Registry – 16 March 2023	3,281		2,685	5,966
Farewell Ceremony Allsop CJ, Qld Registry – 17 March 2023	1,683		765	2,448
Welcome Ceremony – Justice Jackman – NSW Registry – 23 March 2023	2,800		2,355	5,155
National Judges’ Meeting – 29–31 March 2023 – Sydney	41,515		236	41,751
Farewell Ceremony Allsop CJ, NSW Registry – 31 March 2023	9,550		2,518	12,068
Welcome Function – Mortimer CJ – Vic Registry – 17 April 2023	2,012			2,012
Welcome Ceremony –Mortimer CJ – Vic Registry – 15 May 2023	3,481		1,749	5,230
Welcome Ceremony – Justice Kyrou – Vic Registry – 28 June 2023	1,668		2,250	3,918

6. As to 2023–24, see the following table.

Event Name	Catering	Venue Hire	Other Costs*	Total
Delegation from Supreme Court of Indonesia – Vic Registry – 1 August 2023	908		259	1,167
National Judges’ Meeting (includes catering, accommodation and venue hire) – Victoria – 30 August to 1 September 2023		42,239		42,239

Industrial Relations Seminar – Vic Registry – 13 September 2023	2,265			2,265
Welcome Ceremony – Justice Shariff – NSW Registry – 13 September 2023	3,045		2,698	5,743
Registrars’ Conference – Vic Registry 16–19 October 2023	18,318		138	18,456
Welcome Ceremony – Justice Horan – Vic Registry – 20 October 2023	2,369		1,900	4,269
NSW Silks Ceremony – 24 October 2023	382			382
Victoria Silks Ceremony – 8 November 2023	631			631
Farewell Ceremony – Justice Rares – NSW Registry – 14 November 2023	3,185		2,000	5,185
Farewell Ceremony – Justice Bromberg – Vic Registry – 17 November 2023	2,338			2,338
Farewell Ceremony – Justice Kenny – Vic Registry – 24 November 2023	2,075			2,075
Farewell Function – Justice Thomas – Qld Registry – 31 January 2024	322			322
Welcome Ceremony – Justice Neskovicin – Vic Registry – 28 February 2024	2,701		1,840	4,541
Welcome Ceremony – Justice Dowling – Vic Registry – 1 March 2024	3,295		1,950	5,245
Delegation of Vietnamese Judges – Vic Registry – 30 April 2024	326			326
Farewell Ceremony – Justice Besanko – SA Registry – 6 May 2024	2,850		3,259	6,109
National Judges’ Meeting (includes catering, accommodation and venue hire) – South Australia – 29–31 May 2024		43,855		43,855