

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Question reference number: HS 52

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 April 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

- a) What has been the Department/Agency's hospitality spend including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What has been the Department/Agency's entertainment spend? 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. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- e) 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.
- 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/Agency's 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/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

- a) The combined hospitality, food and beverage spend from 1 September 2015* to 31 January 2016 is \$416,713. Included within this amount is expense for the provision of tea, coffee and biscuits for community support services such as Financial Information Service seminars.
- b) Nil.
- c) Nil.
- d) Nil.
- e) The department does not forecast expenses at this level.
- f) The department does not forecast expenses at this level.
- g) The department does not forecast expenses at this level.
- h) The department does not forecast expenses at this level.
- i) The department regularly monitors its spend on hospitality to ensure there is a business need and the cost is reasonable.

* 1 September 2015 has been used as data is only available on a monthly basis. To provide an additional data set as at 14 September 2015 would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.