

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes Question No: SQ16-000016

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Hansard page: Written

Senator Joe Ludwig asked:

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

1. What has been the Department/Agency's hospitality spend including any catering and drinks costs.
2. 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.
3. What has been the Department/Agency's entertainment spend? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

1. The Department's official hospitality expenditure from 1 September 2015 to 31 December 2015 was \$52,935.17 (ex. GST).
2. The Minister and Assistant Ministers' office costs are managed by the Department of Finance (Finance) and therefore this question should be directed to Finance.
3. The Department does not entertain. Costs for official hospitality are provided in the response to question one (1) above.
4. The Minister and Assistant Ministers' office costs are managed by the Department of Finance and therefore this question should be directed to Finance.

5. Official hospitality is used for business purposes, when required and may include expenditure on planned events across Australia to recognise important and significant dates such as:
 - Australia Day Awards
 - National Families Week
 - Mental Health Week
 - International Day for People with Disability
 - White Ribbon Day
 - Donate Life Week
 - National Carers Week
6. The Minister and Assistant Ministers' office costs are managed by the Department of Finance and therefore this question should be directed to Finance.
7. The Department does not entertain. Costs for official hospitality are provided in the response to question one (1) above.
8. The Minister and Assistant Ministers' office costs are managed by the Department of Finance and therefore this question should be directed to Finance.
9. The Department's use of funds for the purpose of providing official hospitality is on an as needs basis. The Department does not specifically plan or budget for official hospitality.