

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 4 June 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Question reference number: HS 48

Senator: Smith

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including catering and drinks.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including catering and drinks.
- c) What is the Department's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including catering and drinks.
- d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including catering and drinks.
- e) What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including catering and drinks.
- f) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
- g) What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- h) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including catering and drinks.
- i) 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:

- a) As at 31 May 2013, the combined hospitality, food and beverage expenditure was \$1.07 million. This includes expenditure on tea, coffee, and biscuits for community support services such as Financial Information Service seminars and CRS Australia customer meetings.

Due to the large amount of information required to provide details for date, location, purpose and cost of events, the preparation of an answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

b) Nil.

c) Nil.

d) Nil.

e) The Department expects the cost of hospitality for the year ending 30 June 2013 to be \$1.19 million.

Due to the large amount of information required to provide details for date, location, purpose and cost of events, the preparation of an answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

f) Nil.

g) Nil.

h) Nil.

i) No specific spending reductions are planned. A substantial amount of the expenditure on hospitality relates to community support services. For example, in 2011-12 the Department delivered 2,700 Financial Information Services seminars across the country and provided tea, coffee and biscuits at these events. In addition, CRS Australia holds a number of customer meetings for job seekers and employer workgroups on a regular basis where tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

The Department has a strong governance framework and all expenditure is approved by authorised delegates.