

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-051

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

- a) What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date? 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 from 7 September 2013 to date. 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 and what are they.

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health's hospitality expenditure for the period 1 September 2013 to 31 October 2013 was \$1,550. This is provided in the following table:

Payment Date	Department/Agency	Location	Purpose	Cost of Hospitality (GST exclusive)
24 & 29 Oct 13	Department of Health	Department of Health, Canberra	Departmental meetings with Ministers	\$190
30 Oct 13	Therapeutic Goods Administration	Parkroyal Melbourne Airport	Advisory Committee on the Safety of Vaccinations meeting	\$1,360

The National Industrial Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme and the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator recorded nil hospitality expenditure.

- b) Nil.
- c) Hospitality and entertainment have the same definition under the Department's Finance Business Rules, which are consistent with the Australian Taxation Office ruling regarding entertainment by way of food or drink. Refer to part a).
- d) Nil.
- e) Corporate systems do not allow for this information to be collected in one report. Therefore, to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.
- f) Nil.
- g) Refer to part e).
- h) Nil.
- i) The Department continues to seek to reduce and minimise expenditure on hospitality, for example utilising the Departments' own facilities including our video conferencing facility which was implemented in early 2012 where possible and appropriate. The Department does not specifically budget in the forward estimates by this class of expenditure.