

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Meeting Costs

Question reference number: HS 129

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June 2014:

- a) How much has the Department/Agency spent on meeting costs? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from Estimates, 2014 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

- a) The department's spending on meetings is included in the combined hospitality, food and beverage expenditure per Question on Notice (QON) on *Hospitality and Entertainment* (refer HS130). The combined hospitality food and beverage expenditure from Budget Estimates in June 2014 to 31 October was \$305,809. The majority of meetings within the department do not incur catering and drinks costs. Included within this amount is expenditure for the provision of tea, coffee and biscuits for community support services such as Financial Information Service seminars and CRS Australia customer meetings.

It would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide details of the date, location, purpose and cost of meetings.

- b) This data is not readily available and to attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
- c) The department does not forecast for these expenses at this level.
- d) This data is not readily available and to attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.