

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 – 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Question:** SQ14-0001484

**OUTCOME 0:** Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Hospitality and Entertainment

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

1. Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 what is 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 is 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 hospitality spend since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 including any catering and drinks costs was \$5,573.
2. Total hospitality spend for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary Office was \$1,450 as per the list below:

**Minister for Health**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Location</b>            | <b>Purpose</b>                           | <b>Cost (GST exclusive)</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 23-Sep-14   | Parliament House, Canberra | Hospitality for screening of documentary | \$1,450                     |

3. Note that hospitality and entertainment have the same definition under the Department's Finance Business Rules. This is consistent with the Australian Taxation Office ruling regarding entertainment by way of food or drink. Refer to Answer 1 above. Itemised list given below:

**Department of Health**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Location</b>                         | <b>Purpose</b>   | <b>Cost (GST exclusive)</b> |
|-------------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 11-Jun-14   | National Press Club, Canberra           | Attendance at speech by Chair, Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research | \$220                       |
| 19-Jun-14   | Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney              | 2014 Australasian Reporting Awards Presentation dinner                         | \$436                       |
| 20-Jun-14   | Office of the Gene Technology Regulator | Recognition of achievement   | \$102                       |
| 18-Jul-14   | National Press Club, Canberra           | 2014 International AIDS forum  | \$659                       |
| 20-Aug-14   | National Press Club, Canberra           | Social Determinants of Health forum  | \$293                       |
| 5-Sep-14    | Parkroyal Melbourne Airport             | Special Orthopaedic Clinical Advisory Group dinner                             | \$1,300                     |
| 8-Sep-14    | Sheraton on the Park, Brisbane          | Ophthalmic Clinical Advisory Group dinner                                      | \$611                       |
| 12-Sep-14   | Novotel Brisbane Airport                | Spinal Clinical Advisory Group dinner  | \$1,055                     |
| 23-Sep-14   | Konoba Restaurant, Canberra             | Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee Meeting                           | \$897                       |

4. Refer to Answer 2 above.

5-8. The Department does not specifically budget in the forward estimates by this class of expenditure.

9. The Department continues to seek to reduce and minimise expenditure on hospitality, for example utilising the department's own facilities.