

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Australia Council

Question No: 165(g)

Australia Council

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Senator Ludwig, Joe 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 level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources. The agency manages hospitality expenditure in accordance with obligations under the Commonwealth's financial framework, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
2. Not applicable.
3. The level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.
4. Not applicable.
5. The level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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6. Not applicable.
7. The level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.
8. Not applicable.
9. Decisions to incur expenditure on hospitality and entertainment are based on an assessment of the circumstances and applicable social conventions. There is no plan to change this approach.