

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 644**

**Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

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 ABC considers hospitality to be a subset of its entertainment expenditure in accordance with the ABC's Entertainment and Functions policy. Entertainment expenditure may include hosting guests at key media industry events (e.g. the Walkley Awards and the Andrew Olle lecture), hosting the ABC's annual Parliament House Showcase, launching ABC Television's new season programming and attendance at press club luncheons.
2. Not applicable.

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3. From 1 June to 30 November 2014, the ABC spent \$165,000 on entertainment expenditure. It is not feasible to separately identify items of entertainment due to the high volume and small nature of transactions.
4. Not applicable.
5. Please see response at 1 (above) and 7 (below).
6. Not applicable.
7. For the period 1 December 2014 to 30 June 2015, the ABC is currently forecasting to spend \$225,000 on entertainment.
8. Not applicable.
9. The ABC regularly reviews expenditure on entertainment as part of managing its overall budget. In response to the budget cuts in November 2014, the ABC will further review expenditure on entertainment in conjunction with reviews on other areas of expenditure.