

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: SBT 2014-2018

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Reference: written - 31 October 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

2014. What has been the Department/Agency's hospitality spend including any catering and drinks costs.
2015. What has been the Department/Agency's entertainment spend? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
2016. 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.
2017. 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.
2018. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

2014. The ATO does not account for hospitality and entertainment expenses separately. Official hospitality covers all hospitality and entertainment expenses incurred by the ATO. The response for 2014 is covered in 2015 below. The response to 2015 provides a detailed list of all hospitality and entertainment expenses for the ATO.
2015. Since Budget Estimates in June 2014, ATO expenditure on official hospitality for the period 1 June to 31 October 2014 was \$7,458 (GST exclusive). The table below contains details of the date, location, purpose and cost.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost (\$) (GST exclusive)
11/06/2014	Perth	Gift for the External Presenter for Private Groups and International (PGI) Conference - Tax and Economic Outlook WA Energy and Resources	340.09
24/06/2014	Sydney	Gifts for the international visitors from the Chinese State of Administration of Taxation (SAT)	61.36
25/06/2014	Sydney	Gift for the Electronic Commerce Multilateral Working Group (E6) delegates - Chocolate Macadamia Nuts	42.27

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27/06/2014	New Delhi, India	Gifts for Indian delegates for the ATO and Indian Revenue Department bilateral meeting	67.90
30/06/2014	Sydney	Official Dinner with overseas E6 delegates	1,055.00
30/06/2014	Brisbane	Gift for the Japanese National Tax Agency (NTA) delegates	129.92
1/07/2014	Sydney	National Tax Practitioner Drivers for Change conference - Facilitator (Nous Group) chocolate box for session winner. The request was made on the spot to ATO staff by the Facilitators, Nous Group, to provide a table prize for the actual afternoon session taking place (attended by 150 Delegates) thus why this is not included in the <i>National Tax Practitioner Drivers for Change conference</i> event procurement plans.	17.23
14/07/2014	National Office	Gifts for visiting leaders for Leaders' Week	512.14
15/07/2014	Sydney	Gifts (wine) for presenters of the Chinese SAT Program	56.82
24/07/2014	Oslo - Norway	Courtesy gifts to Foreign Officials - Chief Audit Executives of Tax Administrations of Norway, Sweden and New Zealand	181.64
24/07/2014	Sydney	Official Closing Dinner/Function for the ATO and Chinese SAT - Joint International Program 2014	2,000.00
24/07/2014	National Office	Gifts for visiting leaders for Leaders' Week	63.56
24/07/2014	Sydney	Official gift for the Chinese SAT delegates	808.86
15/08/2014	Canberra	Official Dinner with Indonesian Delegation	432.18
21/08/2014	Canberra	Five bottles of wine purchased as gifts for industry representatives for Super 2014 Leadership Conference	99.05
21/08/2014	Sydney	Gifts for the Chinese presenters	228.61
21/08/2014	Sydney	Gifts for the international visitors from the Chinese SAT delegates	555.75
22/08/2014	Canberra	Small gifts for the Indonesian delegates on a study visit from the Indonesian Tax Office	55.23
25/08/2014	Adelaide	Bottle of wine purchased as a gift for an external presenter at the PGI Technical Conference	36.35
17/09/2014	Adelaide	Bottle of wine purchased as a gift for an	23.63

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		external presenter at the PGI EL1 Leadership Forum	
22/09/2014	55 Elizabeth St Brisbane	A gift for guest speakers who provided free training for Review & Dispute Resolution (RDR) and Business Line officers. The cost of paying these speakers would have been up to \$1,000. This training constituted compulsory professional development for our staff with practicing certificates, which is also significant saving.	54.55
29/09/2014	Sydney	Souvenirs for the Korean National Tax Service (NTS) Delegates - official visit to discuss Eclipse	119.54
15/10/2014	Sydney	Bottle of wine and gift bag purchased as a gift for international guest speaker Paul Hale, New Zealand Inland Revenue Department (NZIRD)	45.00
17/10/2014	Brisbane	Gift tokens for the Japanese NTA delegates	39.73
22/10/2014	Sydney	Lunch for international counterparts and key OECD players (ATO and HM Revenue and Customs (HRMC) Commissioners)	98.09
22/10/2014	Sydney	Lunch with ATO staff and Justice Edmon for consultation regarding dispute resolution processes	333.91
TOTAL			\$7,458.41

2016. The ATO's internal budget system does not provide information at the requested level of detail.

2017. Refer to SBT 2016 above.

2018. The bulk of the ATO's expenditure for hospitality and entertainment expenses is incurred in hosting international visits; the ATO keeps the costs associated with international visits to a minimum by running multilateral events that many countries from the region can attend. The requests for visits to the ATO are considerably greater than those agreed to by the ATO each year.