

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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**Department/Agency: ATO**

**Question: SBT 1904-1912**

**Topic: Hospitality**

**Reference: written - 30 October 2015**

**Senator: Wong, Penny**

**Question:**

Since 1 January 2015:

1904. What has been the Department/Agency's hospitality spend including any catering and drinks costs.
1905. 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.
1906. What has been the Department/Agency's entertainment spend? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
1907. 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.
1908. 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.
1909. 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.
1910. 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.
1911. 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.
1912. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

**Answer:**

1904. For the period 1 January to 31 October 2015, ATO expenditure on official hospitality was \$26,381.41 (GST exclusive).

The table below contains details of the date, location, purpose and cost.

The ATO definition of official hospitality includes the provision of hospitality by officials to persons other than staff to facilitate the conduct of official business and improve business efficiency and relations for the achievement of Commonwealth policy objectives.

It is the reception of, or generosity shown towards, external guests and can include the provision of meals, alcohol and the presentation of gifts.

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It is providing treatment to guests that are beyond sustenance and of a more generous nature.

Official hospitality always involves people who do not work for the ATO, and usually the guests are senior level or distinguished visitors who are attending in an official role.

**ATO expenditure on official hospitality for the period 1 January to 31 October 2015**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>COST (\$)</b>
6/02/2015	Canberra	Official dinner for Indonesian DGT (Director General of Taxation) delegates	287.00
24/03/2015	ATO Office 52 Goulburn St Sydney	Gift for the Japanese NTA delegation. Japanese National Tax Agency, visit to discuss Exchange of Information Requests and International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, gifts as modest tokens of thanks and appreciation from the ATO for hosting the ATO delegation	145.00
24/03/2015	Chop House Bligh St, Sydney	Official Dinner for the Japanese NTA delegation. Visit to discuss Exchange of Information Requests and International Consortium of Investigative Journalists	621.86
25/03/2015	Australian Embassy Paris	Official dinner at the Australian Embassy to host OECD and International delegates on Tuesday 3 March 2015. Included 10 Australian Government and International delegates; and three ATO officers	338.62
25/03/2015	Canberra, ATO National Office Narellan Street	EL2/SES conference guest speaker gift for Business Reporting & Registrations (BRR) leadership conference	23.63
26/03/2015	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence Sydney	Flowers for the venue and staff in appreciation of hospitality, work and effort put in by the venue staff for the ATO's inaugural Indigenous Employee Roundtable for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander employees.	31.82

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1/04/2015	ATO Sydney	Chocolates were presented to external presenters (2 x Price Waterhouse & Coopers, 2 x Greenwood & Freehills & a consultant) for the Interpretive Assistance/ Technical Leadership Group conference	106.91
8/04/2015	ATO - Adelaide 26 Franklin Street	Gift bottle of wine for external presenter for the External Perspective training sessions with ATO Public Groups & International (PGI) and Ernst and Young. The Adelaide Site Management Committee organised external perspective sessions with the big four accounting firms which involved external presenters presenting to ATO PGI. This bottle of wine was provided to the presenter as a gift item.	40.00
27/04/2015	Le Mozart (Paris)	Official dinner at restaurant in Paris for Overseas Delegate (Assistant Commissioner OECD Paris) - part of the JITSIC (Joint International Tax Shelter Information and Collaboration) network attending OECD Working Party of 9	272.62
28/04/2015	Docklands	2 x bottle wine & gift bags for external speakers for the PGI Tax Technical Update Session	39.99
28/04/2015	Docklands	Bottle of wine and gift bag for external speaker (from Price Waterhouse Coopers) at the PGI Tax Technical Update session	21.81
29/04/2015	Docklands	Wine presented as a gift to external presenter at Executive Level 2.2 PGI Culture Change Workshop Presentation provided to ATO staff regarding the culture change of ATO from an external perspective.	33.64
1/05/2015		Official Dinner for GPF (Global Progressive Forum) for Indonesian delegation. 16 attendees – 4 ATO officers	780.20
25/05/2015	Felix, Sydney	Official dinner for visiting delegates for the SGATAR (Study Group on	687.09

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		Asian Tax Administration and Research)	
25/05/2015	ATO Office Canberra	Gifts for visiting Indonesian Directorate General of Taxes officers as tokens of thanks and appreciation from the ATO for hosting the ATO delegation	238.36
29/05/2015	Adelaide tax office	Bottle of wine for external speaker at the Public Groups & High Wealth Individuals Technical Conference	40.90
1/06/2015	Canberra Amungula Robert Ewing Conference Room	Wine for external speakers (KPMG partners) at the PGH Technical Conference.	63.41
18/06/2015	Melbourne Site	Flowers for Guest Speaker from Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages for Reconciliation Week.	63.64
23/06/2015	Courgette 51 Marcus Street Canberra	Under HOCOLEA (Heads of Commonwealth Operational Law Enforcement Agencies) arrangements ATO covering costs of meetings for 2014/15 year	1,039.00
23/06/2015	Sydney tax office	5 x bottle wine for external speakers at the PGH National Technical Conference	227.27
23/06/2015	Arpege (Overseas)	Official Overseas Business Lunch – NTA of Japan and UK delegates. Forum on Tax Administration JITSIC	155.43
23/06/2015	Arpege (Overseas)	Official Overseas Business Lunch with Forum on Tax Administration (FTA) Secretariat at OECD	58.08
23/06/2015	Chairman YIP Rest	Official dinner for Chilean Tax delegation (11 delegates)	921.82
23/06/2015	ATO Office Canberra	Gifts for four senior Indonesian Directorate General of Taxes officers as modest tokens of thanks and appreciation from the ATO for hosting the ATO delegation	127.64
21/07/2015	Canberra Site	Gift for Guest Speaker - Air Marshall Geoff Brown for the Leadership Conversation Series	36.35

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21/07/2015	Perth Site	4 x Flowers for Indigenous Guests including Speakers (two) and Performers (two) for NAIDOC week for ATO staff participation in NAIDOC community activity	181.82
6/08/2015	Robert Ewing Centre National Office Canberra	Gift for external panel members for contributing to the event	215.34
21/08/2015	Docklands ATO office, Level 9	Two bottles of wine and gift bags for guest speaker presenting Melbourne Tax Technical.	75.04
24/08/2015	Wolfies Hickson Rd The Rocks, Sydney	Deposit for Official Luncheon for visiting delegation China SAT program	1,000.00
24/08/2015	Vancouver, Canada	Gift for Host Nation Canada (Chief Auditor Executive for the Canada Revenue Agency) for Chief Auditor Executive meeting incl. NZ, Canada & Norway countries	41.94
26/08/2015	Melbourne ATO Site	2 x bottles of wine & 2 x gift bags provided as gifts to external presenters. Worrells partner provided 2 unpaid in-house training sessions about Corporate Insolvency to Significant Debt Management (SDM) Resolution - debt collection staff.	43.60
27/08/2015	140 Elizabeth Street	2 x bottles of wine & 2 x gift bags provided as gifts to external presenters. Worrells partner provided 2 unpaid in-house training sessions about Corporate Insolvency to SDM Resolution - debt collection staff.	75.35
28/08/2015	55 Elizabeth St Brisbane	Gift (bottle of wine) for external presenter for the PGH QLD Population Compliance - Business Improvement Workshop. The external presenter is a law firm partner bringing in their perspective of their client taxpayer's views on tax and the tax office.	24.54

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14/09/2015	Singapore	Gift of 500 boomerang lapel pins for the 45th Annual Study Group on Asian Tax Administration and Research (SGATAR) meeting. Approx. 110 of these pins will be used as small gifts for all delegates by the ATO delegation to the 45th Annual SGATAR meeting in Singapore. The remaining pins will be retained by the International Engagement team as gifts for incoming international delegations.	2,400.00
23/09/2015	Ottoman Cuisine 9 Broughton Street Barton	Under Heads of Commonwealth Operational Law Enforcement Agencies (HOCOLEA) arrangements ATO covering costs of meetings for 2014/15 year (expense accrued 30 June 2015, invoice received August 2015)	834.55
23/09/2015	Aboriginal Art Gallery	Gifts for visiting State Administration of Taxation (SAT) for the People's Republic of China officers as tokens of thanks and appreciation from the ATO for hosting the ATO delegation	513.64
23/09/2015	Haighs Chocolates	Gifts for visiting SAT for the People's Republic of China officers as tokens of thanks and appreciation from the ATO for hosting the ATO delegation	51.82
23/09/2015	Blue Ginger Indian Genge Street, Canberra	Official dinner for visiting Indonesian Directorate General of Taxes officers	908.50
23/09/2015	ATO Office 52 Goulburn St Sydney	Gifts for visiting SAT for the People's Republic of China officers as tokens of thanks and appreciation from the ATO for hosting the ATO delegation.	2,692.28
23/09/2015	Adelaide Site	Four gifts for four Guest Speakers at Future Series - Technology Leadership & Change - External Perspective	174.36
28/09/2015	Sydney	Official dinner to enable relationship building between Competent Authority teams of ATO - SAT of China - OECD CA conference	820.00
14/10/2015	ATO Office - Brisbane	Refreshments for Inside the new ATO Event for 30 ATO employees and 60	360.00

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		external guests (90 attendees in total). Networking with other agencies to showcase reinventing the ATO work.	
20/10/2015	55 Elizabeth St	Small gifts for two external presenters (bottle of wine each) and a core of five volunteers (box of chocolates each) for Inside the new ATO Event. This was a local event designed to build relationships with our external partners in the tax system.	107.24
21/10/2015	The Malay Sydney	Official dinner for visiting delegates for the SGATAR	406.04
21/10/2015	Wolfies Hickson Rd The Rocks, Sydney	Payment for Official (Closing ceremony) Luncheon for 40 delegates from the SAT for the People's Republic of China	4,508.40
21/10/2015	WILDLIFE Sydney, Darling Harbour, Sydney	Payment for cultural Luncheon for 40 delegates from the SAT for the People's Republic of China	2,900.00
21/10/2015	WILDLIFE Sydney, Darling Harbour, Sydney	Payment for additional attendance from Senior Delegates for the cultural Luncheon for 40 delegates from the SAT for the People's Republic of China	200.00
27/10/2015	Sydney	Official dinner to enable relationship building between OECD CA teams of ATO - NTA of Japan – CA conference	1,032.27
28/10/2015	Rydges Sydney Central Surry Hills	15 bottles of wine as gifts for presenters at the PGI Banking and Finance conference	284.06
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>26,381.41</b>

1905. The ATO does not provide official hospitality or entertainment for the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary Office.
1906. 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 1906 is covered in 1904 above. The response to 1904 provides a detailed list of all hospitality and entertainment expenses for the ATO.
1907. Refer to 1905 above.
1908. The ATO's internal budget system does not provide information at the requested level of detail.

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- 1909. Refer to 1905 above.
- 1910. Refer to 1908 above.
- 1911. Refer to 1905 above.
- 1912. 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.