

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0123_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & all agencies: Hospitality and entertainment

1)What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date including any catering and drinks costs. 2)For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. 3)What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? 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 from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date. 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

Department

Total hospitality expenditure for the Department of Education¹ for the period 1 March to 30 June 2014 was \$29,735.50.

Please refer to the tables below for a breakdown of events with a cost exceeding \$1,000.00. To provide details for each item of expenditure would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. Hospitality and entertainment are interchangeable terms for this type of expenditure and both are included in the information below.

Event DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE	COST (\$) (Ex GST)
4 March 2014	Ottoman Cuisine – 9 Broughton St Barton ACT	Australia / Malaysia 2 nd joint working group on Education official dinner	1,562.73
17 March 2014	Century Park Hotel – 9 Ratchaprarop Rd, Pratunam – Victory Monument, Bangkok	Workshop to promote Thai/ Australian Education agenda	1,030.77
19 May 2014	Prince Hotel – Jalan Conlay Wilayah Persekutan Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia-Australia Student Mobility Forum Reception	3,886.37
24 and 25 June 2014	IIT Madras – Delhi Avenue Chennai	Endeavour Awards launch reception	2,438.68
26 June 2014	Anna University – Kotturpuram Chennai India	Alumni Association Launch Reception	2,316.63
Subtotal			\$11,235.18

Minister/ Parliamentary Secretary

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP	\$2,423.33
The Hon Sussan Ley MP	\$0
Senator the Hon Scott Ryan	\$0
Subtotal	\$2,423.33

GENERAL EXPENDITURE (< \$1,000 in value per event)

PURPOSE		
Education ¹	General Official Hospitality includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launches attended by the media; ▪ Hospitality associated with advisory committee functions; ▪ Major events relating to the progress or promotion of the Department's business ▪ Hospitality which promotes a government policy or objective; ▪ Hosting visiting officials and dignitaries from overseas; ▪ Hospitality which facilitates the conduct of public business and ▪ Hospitality at functions for staff in recognition of significant events 	\$16,076.99
Total < \$1000		\$16,076.99
Total		\$29,735.50

As the 2013-14 financial year is now complete, there is no further hospitality spend expected in that financial year

All expenditure on hospitality is for official purposes and determined to be appropriate prior to approval. Each item is considered in the context of efficiently and effectively conducting the business of the department.

¹ For the 2013-14 financial year, costs associated with Corporate and the State Office Network functions cannot be simply attributed to the individual departments. The value associated with these functions has been attributed to both departments.

Agency

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

ACARA provided the following response in relation to question 1, with a nil response to all other questions.

Hospitality Expenses – 01-03-2014 – 31-05-2014				
Expenses of \$1000 or more				
Date	Location	Purpose	Cost	Location/address
03/04/2014	Sydney	ACARA Board Dinner to farewell outgoing Board members	\$2,190	ACARA office 255 Pitt St Sydney
Total expenses			\$2,190	

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership

1. \$4,121.72 (ex GST)
2. Not applicable
3. Nil
4. Not applicable
5. Nil
6. Not applicable
7. Nil
8. Not applicable
9. AITSL has reduced its spending on hospitality and entertainment. AITSL considers the necessity for such expenditure on a case-by-case basis and compliance is monitored through the completion and approval of a hospitality form.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

1. Nil response
2. Nil response
3. \$29,008, including \$11,141 for the Indigenous Studies Conference (26-28 March 2014), \$17,200 for the Native Indigenous Title Conference (2-4 June 2014) and \$668 for other costs.
4. Nil response
5. Nil response – data not available
6. Nil
7. Nil response – data not available
8. Nil
9. Nil response – data not available

Australian Research Council

1. \$3,500
2. Nil response
3. Nil response
4. Nil response
5. The ARC expects to spend approximately \$4500 for hospitality in conjunction with meetings as per question SQ14-001821.
6. Nil response
7. Nil
8. Nil response
9. Nil response

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

1. TEQSA's total hospitality spend for the period 1 March to 31 May 2014 is \$354.29 (GST exclusive). Please refer to Table 1 for details in relation to date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Table 1.

Date	Location	Cost	Purpose
04/03/2014	Melbourne	\$ 33.09	Afternoon tea – meeting with the Chinese Education Association of International Exchange (CEAIE)
	Melbourne	\$ 245.56	Morning tea – meeting with UA Standing Group on Quality
15/05/2014	Melbourne	\$ 75.64	Morning tea – Visit from Ministry of Education & Training (Vietnam)
	Total Hospitality	\$ 354.29	

2. Not applicable
3. TEQSA's total entertainment spend for the period 1 March to 31 May 2014 is \$1,238.09 (GST exclusive). Please refer to Table 2 for details in relation to date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Table 2.

Date	Location	Cost	Purpose
04/03/2014	Melbourne	\$ 64.91	Lunch meeting with Deakin University
30/01/2014	Melbourne	\$ 417.64	Higher Education Standards Panel Dinner (Workshop 7)
17/03/2014	Melbourne	\$ 331.45	Higher Education Standards Panel Dinner (Workshop 8)
13/05/2014	Melbourne	\$ 424.09	Higher Education Standards Panel Dinner (Information Session)
	Total Entertainment	\$1,238.09	

4. Not applicable
5. TEQSA has no planned hospitality spend for the remainder of this financial year.
6. Not applicable
7. TEQSA has no planned entertainment spend for the remainder of this financial year.
8. Not applicable
9. TEQSA spending on hospitality and entertainment is minimal. Internal policy limits spending on hospitality and entertainment, and control mechanisms are in place to ensure this expenditure is managed in an efficient, effective and economical manner. Regular reviews of the hospitality and entertainment requirements are undertaken to ensure resources are only allocated to core activities.