

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0517_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & All Agencies: Hospitality and entertainment

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

Department of Education

The total hospitality expenditure for the Department of Education for the period 1 July 2014 to 31 October 2014 was \$18 711.59.

Please refer to the tables below for a breakdown of events with a cost exceeding \$1 000.00. Events costing less than \$1 000.00 are grouped together as to provide details for each item of expenditure would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. There are no specific hospitality events planned for the department or Ministers.

Event DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE	COST (\$) (Ex GST)
17 July 2014	50 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra ACT 2600	Catering for information session and workshop on higher education access and participation for higher education providers.	2,486.36
15-17 August 2014	485 Flinders Lane, Melbourne Vic 3000	Cost of stall at Careers Expo 2014	2,417.55
Subtotal			\$4,903.91

GENERAL EXPENDITURE (< \$1,000 in value per event)			
PURPOSE			
Education	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 		
Total < \$1000			\$11,302.65

Minister/ Parliamentary Secretary

Minister Pyne	\$1,915.43
Senator Ryan	\$589.60
Minister/ Parliamentary Secretary Total	\$2,505.03

Agency Responses

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

Items under \$1 000 as a total for the period 1 July to 31 October 2014 totalled \$2 886.00.

Hospitality Expenses – planning on spending				
Expenses of \$1000 or more				
Date	Location	Purpose	Cost	Location/address
11/12/2014	Sydney	ACARA Christmas Party (subsidy - staff must pay to attend)	\$2,800	CBD Hotel, Sydney
Total expenses			\$2,800	

Australian Research Council (ARC)

Items under \$1 000 as a total for the period 1 July to 31 October 2014 totalled \$5 669.00. The ARC expects to spend approximately \$12,000 for hospitality for various meetings as per question ED0513_15.

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

TEQSA's total entertainment spend for the period June to September 2014 is \$964.00.

Please see table below for details:

Date	Location	Cost (\$)	Purpose
30/07/2014	Melbourne	398	Higher Education Standards Panel Dinner following meeting and workshop
15/09/2014	Melbourne	400	Higher Education Standards Panel Dinner following meeting and workshop
		964	

TEQSA has a policy to limit spending for hospitality and entertainment. There are internal controls in place to ensure such expenditures are managed in an efficient, effective and economical manner.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

Items under \$1 000 as a total for the period 1 July to 31 October 2014 totalled \$6 259.98. AITSL has reduced its spending on hospitality. 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

Items for the period 1 July to 31 October 2014 totalled \$5 723.07. Tables for guests and staff at the Chairperson's National Press Club address totalled \$4 000.00. Spending is only on as-needs basis with regard to business plan and objectives.