

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Budget Estimates – February 2016
ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Hospitality

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: 280

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

Number of Pages: 2

Please provide the cost of hospitality and functions hosted by the Governor-General for the current financial year to date.

Answer:

Each year, around 40,000 guests visit Government House and Admiralty House. Guests include visiting Heads of State, foreign officials, community leaders, representatives of the many organisations of which the Governor-General and Lady Cosgrove are Patrons, school students and members of the public during scheduled Open Days.

The format of hospitality offered by the Governor-General varies depending on the nature of the event. One of the overriding considerations in planning is to ensure that the arrangements for a function best meet the business and operational needs with the most efficient and effective use of resources.

The Office does not generally record details of the cost of hospitality on a function by function basis, and it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to collate such. However, the table below provides an estimate of the food and beverage costs, per function type, for functions hosted by the Governor-General at Government House and Admiralty House, based on an average cost per head for each function type.

2015-2016 FY (as at 29 February)

Function type	Number of functions	Number of guests	Average estimated cost per head	Estimated total cost per function type (based on average cost per head)
Breakfasts	0	0	\$8.50	\$0
Lunches	16	282	\$45.00	\$12,690
Dinners	8	301	\$59.50	\$17,909
Receptions	52	5,242	\$29.50	\$154,639
Investitures	4	462	\$28.00	\$12,936
Ceremonies	4	174	\$22.50	\$3,915
School Visits	263	14,683	Not applicable	Not applicable
Open days and Other Groups	11	9,115	Not applicable	Not applicable
Total	358	30,259		\$202,089