

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 25

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend from 7 September 2013 to date for all events including any catering and drinks costs?
2. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?

Answer:

1-2. The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources to rectify.

Details of the Department's hospitality expenditure from 1 September 2013 to 31 October 2013 is provided in the table below. The Department's financial management system does not allow for a distinction between spending on 'hospitality' and 'entertainment'. Any entertainment expenses will be included within the total hospitality expense.

Date	Location	Purpose	Total (GST Excl)
8/10/13	Canberra	Dinner for Digital Enterprise and Digital Hubs service provider with 32 attendees. Including 7 Departmental staff and 25 Digital Economy participant of the Digital Enterprise and Digital Hubs Programs	\$2,507.73

3. The Department does not currently have any hospitality planned that has been agreed and announced by government.
4. The Department does not currently have any entertainment planned that has been agreed and announced by government.
5. The Department has no specific plans to reduce its spending on these items.