

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No.EW1039_10

Senator Ronaldson asked on 10/02/2010, Hansard page 110.

Question

MIN GILLARD HOSPITALITY

Senator RONALDSON—I am advised that on Thursday, 19 March the Fair Work (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2009 was introduced into parliament and I am advised that on Friday, 20 March the Prime Minister's office ordered approximately \$1,800 worth of food and drinks for your minister's office to thank her for all the hard work that the Deputy Prime Minister's office had done in getting the Fair Work Bill up and running. I then understand that a couple of months later the Parliament House caterers—I think it is IHG these days, is it?—were chasing a payment for the \$1,800. After much back and forth, it turns out that the PM's office did not want to pay the invoice after all—I understand there were eight bottles of champagne, some serious nibbles, 21 bottles of wine, beer et cetera—and that DEEWR ended up paying the full amount. Are you aware of this situation? Ms Paul—Not in detail at all, actually—it is almost a year ago—but I am happy to take it on notice. Senator RONALDSON—Can you take both the background to and the specific question in relation to DEEWR having to foot the bill for this—take the sequential questions and scenarios on notice as well.

Answer

On 20 March 2009, the Deputy Prime Minister hosted a function in her office. The Deputy Prime Minister has personally met the full cost of the function.