

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2013-2014

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0268_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Hospitality and Entertainment

a) What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date including any catering and drinks costs. b) 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. c) What is the Department/Agency's entertainment 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. d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment 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. e) 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. f) 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. g) 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. h) 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. i) Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer

The Department of Employment was established on 18 September 2013. Previously the functions were delivered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Total hospitality expenditure for the Department of Employment¹ for the period 1 December 2013 to 28 February 2014 was \$5457.82.

Please refer to the tables below for a breakdown of events with a cost exceeding \$1000.00. 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)
27 February 2014	Sydney Harbour	Lunch & boat tour for G20 Delegates	4,354.54
Subtotal			\$4,354.54

Minister/ Parliamentary Secretary

Senator The Hon Eric Abetz		\$0
The Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP		\$0
Subtotal		\$0
GENERAL EXPENDITURE (< \$1,000 in value per event)		
PURPOSE		
Employment 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 	\$1,103.28
Total < \$1000		\$1,103.28
Total		\$5,457.82

¹ Corporate and the State Office Network provide services to the Department of Employment and the Department of Education. The value associated with these functions has been attributed to both departments.

The estimated hospitality expenditure for financial year 2013–14 is \$15 000. The details of specific events are not currently determined.

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.