

**Topic:** Christmas/New Year functions

**Senator:** RYAN

**Question reference number:** PM96 (a-e)

**Type of Question:** *written: 24 February 2010*

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 26 March 2010

**Number of Pages:** 2

**Answer:**

a) The Governor-General hosted eight Christmas functions (two at Admiralty House and six at Government House) in 2009. There were no New Year's Eve functions hosted by the Governor-General in 2009.

b) Calculating the exact cost of each function would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources. The following approximate costs for each Christmas function are based on new purchases of food and drink, equipment hire, flowers and entertainment, if applicable. They do not reflect the cost of stock or other consumables on hand.

#### **Admiralty House**

18 November 2009 - Christmas function for children with special needs - \$16,090

19 November 2009 - Christmas function for children with special needs - \$16,506

#### **Government House**

24 November 2009 - Christmas function for children with special needs - \$19,277

4 December 2009 - end of year lunch for staff of the OOSGG - \$2,941

8 December 2009 - reception for heads of Commonwealth agencies and their partners - \$518

9 December 2009 - morning tea for Canberra Legacy - \$2,256

9 December 2009 - buffet dinner for media representatives and their partners - \$1,345

10 December 2009 - reception for Friends of Government House - \$574

c) Food was served at all the functions mentioned above. Alcohol was served at all except the children's Christmas functions on 18, 19 and 24 November.

d) The cost of alcohol served at Christmas functions was as follows:

4 December lunch for staff - \$195

8 December reception for agency heads - \$109

9 December morning tea for Canberra Legacy - \$101

9 December buffet dinner for media - \$269

10 December reception for Friends of Government House - \$114

e) Invitees to Christmas functions comprised:

18 November - 263 children and carers from Bondi Public School Support Unit; The Spastic Centre NSW; St Vincent de Paul Society; Down Syndrome Association of NSW; The Salvation Army; Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation; Children's Hospital Westmead Renal Unit; Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick Renal Unit; and The Smith Family.

19 November - 269 children and carers from Parramatta West Public school; Camp Quality; Aspect Vern Barnett School; St Monica's Primary School; Autism Spectrum Australia; Aspect South East Sydney School; St Lucy's School; The Thomas Pattison School; Ronald McDonald House Westmead; Ronald McDonald House Randwick; Assistance Dogs Australia; Young Carers; and EarlyEd.

24 November - 883 children and carers from ACT primary schools with special education programs.

4 December - staff of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, members of the Australian Federal Police deployed at Government House and members of the Governor-General's security team (90 guests).

8 December - heads of Commonwealth departments and agencies and their spouses (50 guests).

9 December - Legacy widows from Canberra and the Canberra region (100 guests).

9 December - representatives of the media and their spouses (46 guests).

10 December - volunteers and other service providers from the public and private sectors who support the Office's operations (76 guests).