

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 May 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Hospitality / Sustenance

Question reference number: HS 21

Senators: FIFIELD and COLLINS

Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 106, 27 May 2010

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

a)

Senator FIFIELD - Does Centrelink have any money that it has spent on hospitality in 2008-09?

Mr Burgess - Yes. For 2008-09 we spent approximately \$1.08 million on sustenance.

Senator FIFIELD - Is that tea and biscuits?

Mr Burgess - That would be tea and biscuits. That would be sustenance provided in the main in emergency responses that we have had over the years—for example, our bushfire recovery response and flood responses with providing sustenance to staff as part of the recovery.

Senator FIFIELD - Are you able to provide a breakdown of the elements of that?

Mr Burgess - I would have to take that on notice.

b)

Senator FIFIELD - Yes, if you could. As a comparison, if you could also do the same for 2006-07.

Mr Burgess - Yes.

c)

Senator JACINTA COLLINS - Where does the term 'sustenance' come from?

Mr Burgess - It would be a combination of hospitality, which we provide. For example, we provide hospitality, as mentioned earlier, at stakeholder meetings throughout the year. We also have it at our areas across Australia - for example, 15 or so areas where there are meetings with stakeholders at the area level. That would be the provision of sandwiches, tea and coffee and, for example, where we are participating in an emergency response in a recovery centre. It could actually be part of providing a barbecue for customers and for affected people.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS - So you can break up those various aspects of it?

Mr Burgess - Yes.

Answer:

a) and c)

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE FOR HOSPITALITY – 2008-09	
Amount Spent	Reason
\$454,000	Planning Days/Workshops
\$332,000	Business Meetings
\$34,000	Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular staff meetings in service delivery network and government meetings in National Support Office • Some recorded costs for planning days/workshops, business meetings and training also included the cost of the hire of the venue
\$136,000	Celebration of milestones and days of cultural or business importance (International Day People with Disability, NAIDOC Week, Carers Week, Youth Week, National Day of Recognition, National Families Week). Celebrations involved Centrelink staff and members of the public.
\$59,000	Financial Information Seminars (presentations to customers/prospective customers)
\$48,000	Staff Awards (recognition and achievements)
\$19,000	Community (public presentations/support, awareness days, Expos, Drought Bus BBQs and water)
\$1,082,000	TOTAL

b) and c)

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE FOR HOSPITALITY – 2006-07	
Amount Spent	Reason
\$333,000	Planning Days/Workshops
\$782,000	Business Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some recorded costs for planning days/workshops and business meetings also included the cost of the hire of the venue
\$16,000	Celebration of milestones and days of cultural or business importance (International Day People with Disability, NAIDOC Week, Carers Week, Youth Week, National Day of Recognition, National Families Week). Celebrations involved Centrelink staff and members of the public.
\$66,000	Financial Information Seminars (presentations to customers/prospective customers)
\$7,000	Staff Awards (recognition and achievements)
\$11,000	Community (public presentations/support, awareness days, Expos, Drought Bus BBQs and water)
\$1,215,000	TOTAL