

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2009

Question: PM3(a-b)

Topic: Entertainment costs (Cricket dinner)

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Number of pages: 1

- a) Why was there over \$2000 difference between the 2008 PM's XI dinner and the 2009 dinner?**
- b) Does the Government seek tenders for all catering events? Which companies are used?**

Answer:

a) The difference in cost between the 2008 and 2009 lunches for the Prime Minister's XI is mainly attributable to printing costs incurred in 2009 that were not incurred the previous year, and an increase in the cost of beverages.

b) Procurement by the department is undertaken in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (CPGs) and departmental Chief Executive Instructions (CEIs).

There are some venues used for functions arranged by the department where an existing catering contract has already been entered into by others, and we have no choice but to use that contractor. Parliament House and Manuka Oval during the cricket season are two examples.

The catering contract at Manuka Oval during the cricket season is let by Cricket ACT. That contractor caters for all events held under the auspices of Cricket ACT. Accordingly, we used the caterer approved and appointed by Cricket ACT for both lunches hosted by the Prime Minister at Manuka Oval.