

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Portfolio

Question No. 124

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

Meeting Costs

- a) What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Please see the table on the following page.

Agency	a) event details, location and cost	b) Ministers meeting spend	c) Dept/ Agency Planned spend	d) Planned Ministers spend
Attorney-General's Department	<p>Given the wide ranging nature of its work, the Department arranges many meetings. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.</p> <p>For portfolio ministers, and their offices, costs such as for catering are met by the Attorney-General's Department while other costs (e.g. travel costs) are met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. For costs that are met by AGD, information is provided in part b).</p>	<p>Attorney-General's Office - \$253.35 – general catering costs</p> <p>Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Justice's Office - \$208.48 – general catering costs</p>	As spending on meetings is generally ad hoc in nature and not a significant budget item, there are no specific plans in relation to meeting spend.	Nil.
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 30/7/2012, Meeting of the Commonwealth Tribunals Collaborative Forum at the AAT's Sydney Registry, \$343.43 2. 11/10/2012, Meeting of the Commonwealth Tribunals Collaborative Forum at the AAT's Sydney Registry, \$12.10. 3. 12/11/2012, Liaison meeting with AAT users at the AAT's Melbourne, \$65.42 4. 27/11/2012, Liaison meeting with AAT users at the AAT's Adelaide Registry, \$146.25 	N/A	There is no specific plan in place for the rest of the financial year. It is expected that minor meeting expenses will be incurred in the normal course of conduct of AAT business for the remainder of the financial year.	N/A
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 16/08/2012 Meeting with delegation from the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand (80 delegates) – Canberra, \$304.50 2. 15/11/2012 Meeting with the Ambassador of Austria / International Anti-Corruption Academy – Canberra Catering \$24.00 3. 13/12/2012 Community of Practice for Corruption Prevention meeting – Canberra Catering \$88.18 4. Various External meeting supplies – Canberra (eg. milk, tea/coffee), \$73.44 	N/A	Nil	N/A
Australian Crime Commission	The ACC meets with a range of external stakeholders for a variety of purposes. Where ever possible these meetings are conducted at ACC offices or on stakeholder premise. To detail all these meetings would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.	N/A	Nil	N/A
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	As detailed in the responses to October 2012 Supplementary Estimates QoN 107 and February 2013 Additional Estimates QoN 113, Customs and Border Protection's total cost of hospitality and entertainment for 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013 was \$43,090.21. This includes meeting	N/A	As spending on meetings is generally ad hoc in nature and not a significant budget item, there are no specific plans in	N/A

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	costs involving external parties such as catering and drinks costs. Given the wide ranging nature of Customs and Border Protection's work, a significant number of meetings are held with a large number of stakeholders across industry and other law enforcement, government and international agencies. To provide a further break down on such meetings would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.		relation to meeting spend. However, meetings will occur as part of conducting the normal course of the agency's operations during the remainder of the financial year and next financial year.	
Australian Federal Police	AFP do not separately track meeting expenses and to do so would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. Meetings with a hospitality component are included in the response to February 2013 Additional Estimates QoN113 Hospitality & Entertainment.	N/A	Nil	N/A
Australian Government Solicitor	Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) is a government business enterprise operating on a commercial and competitive basis in providing legal and related services to government and its agencies. AGS does not receive any Budget or other appropriations and its employees are engaged outside of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> . The question is therefore not applicable to AGS			
Australian Human Rights Commission	<p><i>Meetings of the National Anti-Racism Partnership</i> – Periodic steering committee meetings attended by partner departments (Attorney-General, Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Australian Human Rights Commission, Australian Multicultural Council) and NGO partners (Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia, and National Congress of Australia's First Peoples). These partners are responsible for the development and implementation of the National Anti-Racism Strategy under the People of Australia multiculturalism policy. Meeting details:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10/8/212, FaHCSIA office, Canberra - \$206.70 2. 28/9/2012, Attorney-General's Department, Canberra, \$207 3. 9/11/2012, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Canberra, \$329 	N/A	<p><i>Australian Arab Emerging Women Leaders Dialogue:</i> 22 March 2013, AHRC Sydney. Women leaders exchanging ideas in relation to women and their roles in building and sustaining democratic practice between different regions of the world. Cost: approx. \$500</p> <p><i>Meetings of the National Anti-Racism Partnership:</i> May 2013 – Attorney-General's Department, Canberra - \$210 (estimated).</p>	N/A
Australian Institute of Criminology	Meetings held at the AIC include the Audit Committee, Criminology Research Advisory Council, National Drug and Law Enforcement Research Fund Board and Executive Committee, Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards, as well as various roundtables and seminars. Number in excess of 50. Total cost is \$12,129	N/A	\$8,664	N/A

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Australian Law Reform Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 9/8/2012, Sydney Age Barriers to Work Advisory Committee Meeting to discuss proposals in the Discussion Paper prior to public release, \$70.40 2. 6/12/12, Sydney for the Age Barriers to Work Advisory Committee to discuss final recommendations for the Report prior to public release, \$95.80 	N/A	In April, \$400 for the Copyright Inquiry Advisory Committee meeting to discuss proposals in Discussion Paper prior to public release. In April, \$150 for a Creative Industry round table group to discuss proposals in Copyright Discussion paper prior to public release	N/A
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	For security reasons it would not be appropriate to comment on ASIO's meetings	N/A	For security reasons it would not be appropriate to comment on ASIO's meeting costs	N/A
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre	Nil	N/A	Nil	N/A
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	<p>In August 2012, CDPP head office in Canberra hosted a delegation of staff from the Kenyan Director of Public Prosecutions, tea and coffee was provided at minimal cost.</p> <p>In December 2012, CDPP head office in Canberra, hosted a Vietnamese delegation of prosecutors, a gift was presented to the delegation at a cost of \$89 and tea and coffee was provided at minimal cost.</p> <p>On occasion the CDPP hosts liaison meetings. Tea and coffee are provided at minimal cost.</p>	N/A	Nil	N/A
CrimTrac	<p>CrimTrac officers regularly meet with state and territory police agencies, accredited agencies and other key stakeholders for project and stakeholder consultation and as part of governance arrangements. Where applicable the travel costs associated with those meetings is included in the answer to February Additional Estimates Question 118. The catering and room hire costs for CrimTrac organised meetings for the period from 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013 were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July 2012, CrimTrac Liaison Officer Forum, Canberra, \$277 2. July 2012, National Operations Advisory Committee Meeting, Canberra, \$448 3. November 2012, Board of Management/Strategic Issues Group 	N/A	Costs are anticipated to continue at similar rates to the period from 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013.	N/A

Agency	a) event details, location and cost	b) Ministers meeting spend	c) Dept/ Agency Planned spend	d) Planned Ministers spend
	Meetings, Canberra, \$855. 4. Strategic Issues Group Meeting, December 2012, Hobart, \$225. 5. Missing Person Workshop, August 2012, Canberra, \$900. 6. Board of Management Meeting, September 2012, Sydney, \$1390. 7. NSCOS Conference, July 2012, Sydney, \$1282. 8. NZ Police Meeting, September 2012, Canberra, \$234. 9. NAFIS User Meeting, May 2012, Canberra, \$514. 10. ABIN Workshop, November 2012, Canberra, \$364.			
Family Court of Australia	The Court has incurred \$4,692 for the year to date on meetings. The Court does not account for meetings on the basis of the purpose of the meeting and is therefore unable to provide a further breakdown. The expenses to date cover judiciary and court staff meeting with overseas delegations and professional associations.	N/A	The Court does not budget for meetings on the basis of the purpose of the meeting and is therefore unable to provide a further breakdown or an estimated budget for 2012/13.	N/A
Federal Court of Australia	The Court does not capture expenditure by the category of 'meetings', whether they be internal meetings or meetings involving external parties. It would be impractical to undertake such a dissection manually.	N/A	Nil	N/A
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	The Court has incurred \$710 for the year to date on meetings. The Court does not account for meetings on the basis of the purpose of the meeting and is therefore unable to provide a further breakdown. The expenses to date cover judiciary and court staff meeting with overseas delegations and professional associations.	N/A	The Court does not budget for meetings on the basis of the purpose of the meeting and is therefore unable to provide a further breakdown or an estimated budget for 2012/13.	N/A
High Court of Australia	The High Court of Australia does not record meetings as a separate cost entity. To extract, analyse and consolidate the data from each separate record would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.			
Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10/10/2012, Major creditor forum Sydney office, \$386.65 2. 31/10/2012, Client Liaison - operation of the debt agreement system Brisbane office, \$74.64 3. 11/7/2012, Financial Counsellor's Bi-Annual Conference Adelaide office, \$25.05 4. 29/10/2012, Liaison with Japanese District Court Judge and staff on Australian Insolvency law Adelaide office, \$52.36 5. 7/11/2012, Financial Counsellor's Bi-Annual Conference Adelaide office, \$20.45 6. 23/11/2012, Emerging Leaders Workshop Adelaide office, \$21.45 7. 21/8/2012, Meeting with Cairns Practitioners and Financial 	N/A	Liaison with Financial Counsellors regarding Online services Sydney office \$15 Liaison with Financial Counsellors Melbourne Trustee Information Session Holiday inn Cairns, \$280 Trustee Information Session Ibis Townsville, \$300 Trustee Information Session Ibis Perth, \$550	N/A

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	Councillors Holiday Inn Cairns, \$792 8. 22/8/2012, Meeting with Townsville Practitioners and Financial Councillors IBIS Townsville, \$664 9. 4/10/2012, Registered Debt Agreement Administrators Development day Marriott Brisbane, \$4,377.64 10. 12/9/2012, CDPP liaison meeting Canberra office, \$21.90			
National Native Title Tribunal	The NNTT will not be providing a response to this question, as from 1 July 2012 the National Native Title Tribunal is no longer a <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i> Agency, and is funded to carry out its functions as a sub-program of the Federal Court of Australia's appropriation.			
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	1. 30/7/2012, Canberra (OAIC Premises) Information Advisory Committee, \$307 2. 11/9/2012, Canberra (National Library) Information Contact Officer Network, \$2,423 3. 7/11/2012, Canberra (OAIC Premises) Information Advisory Committee, \$349 4. 9/11/2012, Sydney (OAIC Premises) Privacy Advisory Committee, \$122 5. 27/11/2012, Canberra (National Portrait Gallery) 30th Anniversary of FOI Act, \$2,636 6. 7/12/2012, Sydney (OAIC Premises) Information Contact Officer Network, \$25	N/A	1. 11/4/2013, Sydney (OAIC Premises), Privacy Advisory Committee, \$150 2. 16/4/2013, Canberra, (National Library) Information Contact Officer Network, \$1,565 3. 21/5/2013, (OAIC Premises) Information Advisory Committee, \$500	N/A
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	1. 16/11/2012, catering for cross-portfolio seminar on sunseting, Canberra, \$613.50.	N/A	There are no plans at present for meeting expenditure for the remainder of the financial year.	N/A