

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

Portfolio

Question No. 139

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

Community Cabinet Meetings

- a) How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended this financial year to date? List date and location.
- b) How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?
- c) What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodation and any other expenses.
- d) Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.
- e) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

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

a)

For the current financial year to 12 February 2013, there have been three Community Cabinet meetings attended by a Minister from the Attorney-General's portfolio.

The former Attorney-General, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, attended Community Cabinet meetings on 5 September 2012, in Perth, Western Australia.

The Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, the Hon Jason Clare MP, attended the Community Cabinet meeting in Ipswich, Queensland on 12 July 2012, and 14 November 2012, in Kippa-Ring, Queensland.

b) c) and d)

Figures associated with departmental officers' attendance at these two meetings are detailed below:

Meeting	No of Departmental Staff	Flight Costs	Accommodation Costs	Meals and Incidentals Costs	Total cost of Departmental Staff
Ipswich 12/07/2012	1	\$505	\$180	\$168	\$853

Perth 05/09/2012	1	\$3254	\$175	\$205	\$3634
Kippa-Ring 14/11/2012	1	\$595.10	\$0	\$215.25	\$810.35
TOTAL	3	\$4354.10	\$355	\$585.25	\$5297.35

e)

The total costs for the Department for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date were \$5297.35.

The Department is unable to provide information about the costs associated with the Attorney or Minister's attendance, or the attendance of ministerial staff, at these meetings. Travel costs of ministers, parliamentary secretaries and other staff covered by the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are administered by the Department of Finance and Deregulation and departments do not hold this information.