

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 11 FEBRUARY 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0457) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

Portfolio wide - 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. 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. 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. 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

Answer:

The department does not keep detailed records of meeting dates, locations and purposes. The department's corporate systems do not separately identify spending on meetings. To provide the level of detail requested in this question is considered to be an unreasonable diversion of resources. The department is not in a position to dedicate the resources necessary to answer this question.

Catering and drink costs that are incurred as part of departmental hospitality and entertainment are reported in AE13/0456 Hospitality and Entertainment.

For The 2012–13 financial year to date, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) expended funds as listed below:

- \$302.73 for a meeting hosted by former Minister Bowen to announce the Greek working holiday maker arrangements. The meeting was held on 14 August 2012 in a committee room at Parliament House, Canberra.
- For the 2012–13 financial year to date, DIAC has not expended funds for Senator the Hon Kate Lundy, Minister for Multicultural Affairs or the Hon Brendan O'Connor, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. Minister O'Connor was sworn in as Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on 4 February 2013.

DIAC is not currently planning any meeting spend for either Minister.

MRT-RRT

Answer:

In the financial year to 31 January 2013 the MRT-RRT spent \$7,333 at Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane tribunal locations on video-conference link fees, Administrative Appeals Tribunal room hires at locations in Perth and Adelaide, and morning tea provisions. All meetings were held in support of official tribunal functions and operations. The MRT-RRT spending plan for meetings for the rest of the financial year will be approximately \$5,237.