

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

Portfolio

Question No. 108

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:

Community Cabinet meetings

- a) Provide an update of 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, accommodate 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 29 May 2013, there have been seven Community Cabinet meetings attended by a Minister or Ministers from the Attorney-General's portfolio.

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

The current Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP, attended the following Community Cabinet meetings:

- Adelaide, South Australia on 20 February 2013
- Thornlie, WA on 27 March 2013, and
- Ringwood, Victoria on 17 April 2013.

The Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Justice, the Hon Jason Clare MP, attended the following Community Cabinet meetings:

- Ipswich, Queensland on 12 July 2012
- Kippa-Ring, QLD on 14 November 2012
- Adelaide, SA on 20 February 2013, and

- Regents Park, New South Wales on 22 May 2013.

b), c), and d)

The figures associated with Attorney-General's Department officers' attendance at these seven 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	\$505.00	\$180.00	\$168.00	\$853.00
Perth 05/09/2012	1	\$3254.00	\$175.00	\$205.00	\$3634.00
Kippa-Ring 14/11/2012	1	\$595.10	\$0.00	\$215.25	\$810.35
Adelaide 20/02/2013	1	\$490.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$615.00
Thornlie 27/03/2013	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ringwood 17/04/2013	1	\$319.28	\$197.93	\$287.05	\$804.26
Regents Park 22/05/2013	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	5	\$5163.38	\$552.93	\$1000.30	\$6716.61

e)

The total cost to the Attorney-General's Department for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to 29 May 2013 is \$6716.61.

The Department is unable to provide information about the costs associated with the attendance of the Attorney-General, the Minister for Home Affairs and Justice or 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.