

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

**Question No. 94**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:**

**Community Cabinet**

- a) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held for the year 2010-11?
- b) How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11? What was the total cost of this travel?
- c) How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11? What was the total cost of this travel?
- d) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11?
- e) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?
- f) How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel?
- g) How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel?
- h) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?

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

As at 30 September 2011, and since the financial year 2010-11, there were two Community Cabinet meetings which were attended by the Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP. On each occasion the Attorney was accompanied by one Departmental officer and two Ministerial staff.

The Department is unable to provide information about the costs associated with the Attorney's attendance, or the attendance of ministerial staff, at these meetings. Travel costs by 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.

Costs associated with departmental officers' attendance at the two meetings are detailed below:

Meeting	No of Departmental Staff	Cost of Departmental Staff
Modbury Heights SA 19 May 2011	1	\$750

Palmerston, NT 30 June 2011	1	\$3,642.11
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Total costs for the Department were \$4,392.11.