

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

Portfolio

Question No. 130

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Community Cabinet Meetings

1.

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

2.

- a) How many Community Cabinet meetings did the Minister attend in 2011-12? List date and location.
- b)
 - i. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for 2011-12?
 - ii. What was the total cost of this travel?
 - iii. List travel type, accommodation and any other expenses.
 - iv. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.
- c) What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office for the Community Cabinet meetings for 2011-12?

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

1a)

For the current financial year to 16 October 2012, there have been two Community Cabinet meetings attended by a Minister from the Attorney-General's portfolio.

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

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

1b) and c)

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, QLD 12/07/2012	1	\$505	\$180	\$168	\$853
Perth, WA 05/09/2012	1	\$3254	\$175	\$205	\$3634
TOTAL	2	\$3759	\$355	\$373	\$4537

Total costs for the Department were \$4537.

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.

2a)

For the 2011-12 financial year, there were three Community Cabinet meetings attended by a Minister from the Attorney-General's portfolio.

The former Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, attended the Community Cabinet meeting in Hobart on 3 October 2011, and was accompanied by one Departmental officer and one Ministerial staffer.

Both the former Minister for Home Affairs and Justice and the former Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP, attended the Community Cabinet meeting in Werribee on 9 November 2011, and were accompanied by one Ministerial staffer each and one Departmental officer.

The current Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, the Hon Jason Clare MP, attended one Community Cabinet meeting in Parramatta, NSW on 4 April 2012.

2b) and c)

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

Meeting	No of Departmental Staff	Flight Costs	Accommodation Costs	Meals and Incidentals Costs	Total Cost of Departmental Staff
Hobart, TAS 03/10/2011	1	\$347.88	\$167.00	\$137.80	\$652.68
Werribee, VIC 09/11/2011	1	\$587.32	\$198.00	\$162.50	\$947.82
Parramatta, NSW 04/04/12	1	\$225.86	\$0	\$115.90	\$341.76
TOTAL	3	\$1161.06	\$365	\$416.20	\$1942.26

Total costs for the Department were \$1942.26.

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.