

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

**Question No. 62**

**Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:**

1. What are the funding arrangements for the Attorney-General's office and the Minister for Justice's office?
2. Is there a specific budget for both offices, or has a specific funding allocation been set aside within the Department to meet the costs of operating the ministerial offices in the portfolio?
3. Are there administrative arrangements that apply to these budgets?
  - a. Can you provide details of those administrative arrangements?
4. What are the arrangements for expenditure by the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice or their office on hospitality?
5. Have the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice or their offices used the office budget or directly drew on departmental funds for hospitality purposes?
  - a. If so what are the details?
6. Has the Attorney-General or Minister for Justice acquired new crockery and cutlery for ministerial suites. Has that happened in this portfolio?
  - a. If so, how was it funded and how was the cost met?

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

1. The arrangements for meeting the costs of services to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice are set out in the *'Ministers of State Entitlements Handbook'*.
2. The Attorney-General's Department sets an indicative budget for the services it is responsible for providing to each portfolio minister.
3. Departmental administrative processes for budgeting and financial management apply to budgets for services to portfolio ministers.
4. The Attorney-General or Minister for Justice may seek authorisation from the department for expenditure on ministerial hospitality by the minister or the minister's office. The department may authorise spending of public money for ministerial hospitality if the hospitality is portfolio related and the expenditure is consistent with the *Financial Management and Accountability Act* and the Chief Executive Instructions.
5. Yes
  - 5a. Details of ministerial hospitality expenditure are provided in response to QoN 100 received in writing from Senator Ludwig.
6. No
  - 6a. Not applicable