

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

Question No. 99

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

Meeting costs

- a) What is the Department's meeting spend from 7 September 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What meeting spend is the Department planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) 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.

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

- a) Given the wide ranging nature of its work, the Department arranges many meetings. Providing details of all meetings would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources. The Department's hospitality and entertainment spend for this period is set out in the response to Question No 100.
- b) There was nil expenditure by the Department during the period on meeting costs for the Offices of the Attorney-General and the Minister for Justice. For portfolio ministers and their offices some costs, such as for catering, are met by the Attorney-General's Department while other costs, such as travel costs, are met by the Department of Finance. Ministerial hospitality and entertainment spend for this period is set out in the response to Question No 100.
- c)-d) As spending on meetings is generally ad hoc in nature and not a significant budget item, there is no planned meeting spend for the Department or portfolio ministers.