

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 358
Asked on Thursday, 8 March 2007

MR HORAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES (MR MULHERIN)-

What is the breakdown of hospitality and entertainment received for chief executive officers and senior executive service officers for his department/s in 2005-06 and 2006-07 (year to date), detailing (a) names of the officers receiving the hospitality and entertainment, (b) type of the hospitality and entertainment received for each officer, (c) provider of the hospitality and entertainment for each officer, (d) total value of the hospitality or entertainment including travel and accommodation if relevant, (e) purpose of the hospitality or entertainment and (f) benefit to the Queensland taxpayer?

Answer

In August 2003, a new Gifts and Benefits Policy covering all state public servants was introduced. The release of this new policy demonstrates this government's commitment to transparency and accountability and expectations of a high standard of ethical behaviour by public service employees.

At the same time, the Premier took the opportunity to set up a similar policy for Ministers and Ministerial staff.

The policy for state public servants covers gifts and benefits, including hospitality, to be given or received by public service employees - regardless of their value. It reinforces that it is not appropriate for public service employees to be offered or to give gifts and benefits that may be likely to influence them in the performance of their official duties. The policy makes it clear to public servants how to make decisions about accepting offers.

At the Premier's office's request, the Office of the Public Service Commissioner has checked that this policy has been fully implemented. The advice, following this check, is that all government departments have fully implemented the policy and maintain a gifts and benefits register as well as regularly reviewing practices to ensure compliance with this policy. Staff training and awareness programs have also been conducted so that employees understand their obligations and responsibilities in the offers of gift or benefits while performing their official duties.

There was no hospitality and entertainment received for the Director-General and senior executive service officers in the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries in 2005-06 and 2006-07 (to date) over the threshold of \$250.