

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton billed taxpayers \$4000 for dinner and 'seven bottles of fine wine' at a five-star restaurant in the U.S.

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- **The Immigration Minister hosted a three-course meal at Jefferson Hotel in the US**
- **Taxpayers paid \$36,682 for his trip, including \$27,800 for business class airfares**
- **Mr Dutton and his guests were treated to a \$360-a-head meal at the restaurant**

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Immigration Minister Peter Dutton splurge nearly \$4,000 of taxpayer money on a 'working dinner' that included seven bottles of fine wine.

Mr Dutton hosted an extravagant three-course dinner at the five-star Jefferson Hotel for 10 guests during his three-day visit in Washington DC last February.

Taxpayers paid \$36,682 for his trip to the US, including \$27,800 for business class airfares for him and his chief of staff Craig Maclachlan.

Mr Dutton and his guests, including his staff and former US officials, were treated to a \$360-a-head meal at the fine-dining restaurant.

They ordered two bottles of Far Niente Chardonnay at \$106 (\$US80) each, three bottles of Chappellet Cabernet Sauvignon Mountain Cuvee at \$100 (\$US75) each and two bottles of Mark Ryan Cabernet Sauvignon Blend at \$90 (\$US68) each.

A spokesperson for Mr Dutton told [Fairfax Media](#) the department had organised the dinner during the Five Counties Ministerial Meeting.

The minister [also] held bilateral meetings with US Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and now UK Prime Minister Theresa May, visited the White House and the Director of the CIA

and the minister was also negotiating the arrangement with the United States to accept people from Nauru and Manus Island,' she said.

Documents released under Freedom of Information legislation revealed Mr Dutton and Mr Maclachlan were each given a \$2,000 budget for 'meals and incidentals'.

But the cheque for the three-course dinner came to a total of \$3,929 (\$US2,790) - the exchange rate on February 17, 2016.

While it is unknown what food was served, the menu includes meals such as beeswax poached king salmon, lobster gratin and alaskan king crab leg.

For dessert, diners could order wild flower honey poached pear, Greek yogurt and ginger blanc mange and many more.

Guests at the dinner included former acting commissioner of the US Customs and Border Protection Thomas Winkowski, former homeland security secretary Tom Ridge and n immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute Alex Nowrasteh.