

Media Release 10 October 2016

Well may you ask

“How much did taxpayers pay for the Premier’s Grand Prix suite?”

And

“Should these costs be included in GP losses borne by Victorian taxpayers?”

An FOI dated 5 February, 2016 from Save Albert Park to the department of Premier and Cabinet seeking costs relating to the Premier’s suite at the 2015 Grand Prix revealed it has no idea how much it cost, or who actually paid for it!

This is what we were advised from the government’s FOI officer as follows:

“As discussed, in relation to your query regarding Save Albert Park’s previous FOI request and the costs associated with the Premier’s suite at the 2015 F1 Grand Prix, a search for documents undertaken in the course of processing the request revealed no relevant documents showing such costs, aside from the one document that was released showing costs associated with Children’s Day (\$1,597.40). I have sought further advice from our Finance team in relation to this, however they have not been able to provide any further as to who may have handled costs for the suite at the 2015 Grand Prix.”

Another FOI from SAP (in June 2016) to the Premier’s department for costs relating to the 2016 Premier’s GP corporate box is on-going.

In the email from the Premier’s FOI Officer he informed us:

“In relation to the new FOI request by Save Albert Park, received by this department on 28 June 2016, I am currently undertaking enquiries as to whether this department holds any relevant documents, as my understanding is that responsibility for management of the Premier’s suite at the Grand Prix has been moved to the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR). If this is the case, I will contact DEDJTR and arrange for a formal transfer of your request, and that department will respond to you directly. “

DEDJTR eventually responded (29/9) saying: *“An influx of requests in 2015 led to a backlog of request processing.”* So, will the public ever be told:

1. How much taxpayers forked out for entertainment and hospitality expenses at the Premier’s suite for the 2015 and 2016 Australian Grands Prix?
2. If these costs are included in the GP losses borne by Victorian taxpayers? If not, why not?

Well may you ask

<http://www.save-albert-park.org.au/>

Contact: SAP spokesperson, Peter Logan 0412697074 or SAP President, Peter Goad 0407192455