

Question on notice no. 69

Portfolio question number: SQ24-000159

2023-24 Additional estimates

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

Senator Bridget McKenzie: asked the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on 12 February 2024—

Senator McKENZIE: So the government hasn't reconsidered its decision on the Qatar Airways decision, despite Allan Fels's claim that that decision drove up the price of airfares by 30 per cent for Australian travellers. Is that correct, Minister?

Senator Chisholm: The position of the government was that Qatar would have to make a new submission for us to consider. I'm not aware that they've made a new submission.

Senator McKENZIE: Do you think Australians are paying too much for air tickets?

Senator Chisholm: I don't know what the evidence has been saying lately. I do know that— Senator McKENZIE: Are you saying Allan Fels is a liar?

Senator Chisholm: I do know that costs for international flights have come down in recent months. That's my understanding. I apologise to Sally and Michelle, but, given it's been a busy week, I haven't had a chance to read their report in full.

Senator McKENZIE: Are you confident that the minister or her office has?

Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take it on notice, but I'm sure they'd be aware of the work that had been undertaken by the movement with Professor Fels.

Answer —

Please find answer attached.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 2023 - 2024

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 69

Departmental Question Number: SQ24-000159

Division/Agency Name: DIV - International Aviation Technology and Services

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 107 (12 February 2024)

Topic: Review of the Allan Fels Report

Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:

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Senator MCKENZIE: Do you think Australians are paying too much for air tickets? Senator Chisholm: I don't know what the evidence has been saying lately. I do know that—

Senator MCKENZIE: Are you saying Allan Fels is a liar?

Senator Chisholm: I do know that costs for international flights have come down in recent months. That's my understanding. I apologise to Sally and Michelle, but, given its been a busy week, I haven't had a chance to read their report in full.

Senator MCKENZIE: Are you confident that the minister or her office has?

Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take it on notice, but I'm sure they'd be aware of the work that had been undertaken by the movement with Professor Fels.

Answer:

The Australian Government is aware of the release of the report by former Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Professor Alan Fels AO.

Issues related to aviation policy will be addressed in the Aviation White Paper.