

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome

Question No: 245

Topic: Travel Costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, Departmental officers who accompanied a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary on official travel incurred the following costs (GST exclusive).

Fares	Accommodation	Travelling Allowance	Other	Total
\$101,136	\$16,455	\$11,384	\$2,529	\$131,504

The classification of “Other” includes officers’ expenses where no travel allowance has been claimed, such as bus hire, venue hire and additional vehicle hire.

The class of air travel for non-SES staff is generally Economy Class travel. SES officers travel economy Class between Canberra and Sydney and Canberra and Melbourne (where those cities are the end destination), unless there are medical reasons for utilising a different class of travel. This is a Whole of Australian Government approach. In addition, FaHCSIA encourages SES employees to travel Economy Class on all domestic flights wherever possible.

It is not possible to give a definitive response about travel for the rest of the calendar year due to the changing nature of business requirements.