

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs**

**Question No: 929**

**Topic: Travel costs - department**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Ludwig** asked:

- a) Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- b) What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

**Department of Social Services**

- a) For the period 1 March 2014 to 31 May 2014, Departmental expenditure on travel was \$2,723,680 (GST exclusive).

	<b>Airfares</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Travel Allowance</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Department of Social Services	\$1,450,359	\$654,009	\$553,098	\$22,935	\$2,680,401
Social Security Appeals Tribunal	\$29,627	\$7,092	\$5,485	\$1,075	\$43,279
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,479,986</b>	<b>\$661,101</b>	<b>\$558,583</b>	<b>\$24,010</b>	<b>\$2,723,680</b>

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

Travel is undertaken where business objectives require it.

Note: During this period, the Department transitioned the Indigenous Affairs portfolio to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and, therefore, the above expenditure figures include costs relating to the Indigenous Affairs programme. These figures also include expenditure by agencies and parts of agencies that have progressively transferred into the Department since 27 February 2014, including Ageing and Aged Care, Specialist Employment Services and Settlement Services, from the former Departments of Health and Ageing; Education Employment and Workplace Relations; and Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, respectively.

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Departmental expenditure on travel for the previous three financial years was:

<b>F/Y</b>	<b>Total</b>
2013-14 to 31 May	\$9,322,322
2012-13	\$12,770,820
2011-12	\$14,792,638

Note that data in the above table spans Administrative Arrangements Order changes.

- b) The answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

**Australian Aged Care Quality Agency**

- a) For the period March 2014 to 31 May 2014, the Quality Agency's expenditure on travel was \$485,967 (GST exclusive).

<b>Airfares</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$137,828	\$260,655	\$87,484	\$485,967

Travel is undertaken where business objectives require it.

The classification of "Other" includes taxis to and from airports, vehicle hire, parking fees and mileage reimbursement when officers use their own private vehicles for travel in the conduct of Quality Agency's business.

- b) The answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

**Aged Care Pricing Commissioner**

- a) For the period 27 February to 04 June 2014, the Office of the Aged Care Pricing Commissioner and the Commissioner's own expenditure on travel was \$7176.72 (GST exclusive).

<b>Airfares</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Travel Allowance</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$2424.00	\$4752.72	\$1628.00	\$NA	\$7176.72

Travel is undertaken as required for business objectives.

- b) The answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

**Australian Institute of Family Studies**

- a) Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, the Australian Institute of Family Studies expenditure on travel was \$54,539.04 (ex GST).

<b>Airfares</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Travel Allowance</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$37,207.81	\$8,693.79	\$6,110.72	\$2,526.72	\$54,539.04

The classification of "Other" includes personal vehicle use allowance (for business travel) and general travel expenses (fuel, parking, and tollway).

Travel is undertaken where business objectives require it.

- b) The answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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**National Disability Insurance Agency**

a) For the period 27 February to 31 May 2014, the National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA) expenditure on travel was \$774,384 (GST exclusive).

<b>Airfares</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Travel Allowance (Meals &amp; Incidentals)</b>	<b>Other*</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$371,630	\$150,487	\$159,406	\$92,861	\$774,384

\* The classification of 'Other' includes expenses where no travel allowance has been claimed such as bus and vehicle hire, parking fees and taxi costs.

Travel is undertaken where business objectives require it and the NDIA makes considerable use of video conferencing where this is a feasible alternative to travel.

b) The answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.