

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 194(b)**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016**

**Topic: Travel costs – department**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Is the minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
2. If so, under what policy?
3. Provide a copy of that policy.
4. When was this policy implemented?
5. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
6. Detail all travel (domestic and international) 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).
7. 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.
8. What date was the minister or their office notified of the travel?
9. What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
10. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.
5. Not applicable.
6. Not applicable.
7. For the period 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 the total expense for ABC officers was \$5.5m for domestic travel and \$1.7m for international travel. The ABC does not record travel

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data in a way that would readily allow individual components of travel to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

8. Not applicable.
9. Not applicable.
10. The ABC does not record planned or proposed domestic travel. At present, 37 overseas trips are planned between April 2016 and July 2016. These relate primarily to coverage of major events, including 2016 Gallipoli Dawn Service, 2016 Villers-Bertonneux Memorial Service and the US Election.