

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Australia Council

Question No: 194(g)

Australia Council

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 - 6: No.

7. For all staff from 1 September 2015 to 29 February 2016 (including those directly administering programs): \$271,307. For board members: \$25,701.

Staff and board member travel is undertaken to fulfil standard operational requirements of the Australia Council.

Staff travel breakdown	Total (\$)
Airfares	135,779

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Staff travel breakdown	Total (\$)
Accommodation	88,004
Meals and Incidentals	47,524
Grand Total	271,307

Board member travel breakdown	Total (\$)
Airfares	24,098
Meals Incidentals	1,604
Grand Total	25,702

8-9: Not applicable.

10. It is expected that travel will be undertaken as necessary in response to standard operational requirements for the remainder of the calendar year.