

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

National Collecting Institutions

Question No: 194(k)

National Collecting Institutions

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Travel costs - department

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

National Cultural Institutions

- Australian National Maritime Museum
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Library of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- National Portrait Gallery
- The Museum of Australian Democracy

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.

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Answer:

Australian National Maritime Museum

1-6. N/A.

7. The total travel costs for the ANMM for the period 14 September 2015 – 8 February 2016 are \$293,035.77 ex GST. To provide a breakdown of travel costs and an explanation for travel undertaken would be an unreasonable diversion of resources

8-9. N/A.

10. The Museum is currently working through the 2016 calendar year budget as part of the 2016-17 budget process.

National Film and Sound Archive

1-6. N/A.

7. To attempt to provide the level of detail requested would pose an unreasonable diversion of resources.

8. Notice was provided to the Minister on 21 September 2015 seeking approval for international travel by the CEO during the period 13 to 18 November 2015.

9. Ministerial approval was received on 4 November 2015.

10. To attempt to provide the level of detail requested would pose an unreasonable diversion of resources.

National Gallery of Australia

1-5. N/A.

6. Nil.

7. Total travel expenditure for the defined period was \$369,980. Further breakdown would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

8-9. N/A.

10. Travel is approved via Gallery Delegations and managed through a detailed travel policy. An overarching travel budget is in place for 2015-16.

National Library of Australia

1-6. N/A.

7. The total costs for the National Library are provided in the table below. To provide a breakdown of travel costs and an explanation for travel undertaken would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Agency	Total Cost
National Library of Australia	\$82,386 GST Excl

8-9. N/A.

10. Travel is undertaken as necessary in response to standard operating requirements. To attempt to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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National Museum of Australia

1-6. N/A.

7. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of Museum resources
8. N/A.
9. N/A.
10. It is expected that travel will be undertaken as necessary in response to standard operational requirements for the remainder of the calendar year.

National Portrait Gallery

1-5. N/A.

6. Nil – NPG staff did not accompany the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel during the reporting period 14 September 2015 to 9 February 2016.
7. The NPG have total expenses of \$29,995 on travel (includes Board Travel) during the reporting period 14 September 2015 to 9 February 2016. To provide a breakdown of travel costs would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
8. The National Portrait Gallery are not required to provide information relating to travel to the Minister or their office.
9. N/A.
10. It is expected that travel will be undertaken as necessary in response to standard operational requirements for the remainder of the calendar year. To attempt to provide further information from the Gallery would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

The Museum of Australian Democracy

1-5. N/A.

6. Nil.
7. The total spend is \$53,375 – Interstate travel for advisory council members to attend OPH, travel for content development for exhibitions and for staff to attend interstate conferences. Includes 1 international trip for the Agency Director to present a paper at conferences in the USA and Europe.

To attempt to provide the level of detail requested in question 7, would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

8-9. Nil.

10. The total planned travel is \$45,950. The travel is for the advisory council members to attend OPH for meetings, staff to travel to conferences and professional development.