Question No: 625

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel costs – Ministerial

Senator Ludwig asked:
1. From 25 February 2014, detail all travel conducted by the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary.
2. List each location, method of travel, itinerary and purpose of the trip.
3. List the total cost plus a breakdown that includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
4. List the number of staff that accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary, listing the total cost per staff member, the class of airplane travelled, the classification of staff accompanying the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary.
5. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:
1-3. These questions should be directed to the Department of Finance.

4. The Minister for Communications was accompanied by his Chief of Staff during his visit to Europe in April/May 2014. Costs for officers employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are the responsibility of the Department of Finance.

5. The Minister for Communications has in-principle approval from the Prime Minister for the following international travel:

   i. Auckland, New Zealand, 8-10 July 2014: The Minister attended the Korea-Australia-New Zealand (KANZ) Broadband Summit. Attendance plays an important role in building cooperation between the three countries on broadband policy.
   ii. The Republic of Korea, 3 – 6 November 2014 (dates to be confirmed). The Minister will attend the International Telecommunications Union Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 (PP-14). The Ministers participation in PP-14 will enable him to significantly contribute to and influence the outcomes of high-level negotiations on contentious policy issues including cybersecurity and internet governance.
   iii. The Philippines, April 2015. The Minister will attend the 10th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information Industry (TELMIN). The Minister's participation at TELMIN provides an opportunity for Australia to engage and interact with other ministries on telecommunications issues and will facilitate the exchange of policy ideas between governments.