

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Hearings November 2014
Communications Portfolio
Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency

Question No: 286

Program No. TUSMA

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel costs

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

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. List all occurrences of travel that this has occurred under.
6. Detail the process.
7. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
8. 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).
9. 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.
10. What date was the minister or their office was notified of the travel?
11. What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
12. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

1-7. No and not applicable.

8. To date, no Departmental officers have accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel.

9. From 1 June 2014 to 30 November 2014 the agency spend for travel (flights and accommodation) was \$73,879.40 (GST inclusive). All travel relates to achieving agency deliverables. The agency does not record travel 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 agency resources.

10-11. Not applicable.

12. TUSMA anticipates that there will be future travel planned for the remainder of this calendar year that relate to the agency deliverables.