

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2012

30 May 2012

QUESTION: BET 16

Topic: Australian Valuation Office – travel spending (ATO)

Hansard Page: 121

Senator BUSHBY asked:

Senator BUSHBY: I have some questions regarding the Australian Valuation Office. I am interested in how much has been spent on travel—I understand you might have to take this on notice—for the financial year to date. You do not have that information with you, I suspect?

Mr King: I do not have that information. I will take it on notice.

Senator BUSHBY: Could you also provide a breakdown of staff travel in the agency over that period?

Mr King: Yes, I can.

Answer:

The Australian Valuation Office (AVO) is a commercial fee-for-service business of the Australian Taxation Office. The AVO operates on a revenue base generated through valuations and valuation-related services for government client organisations. The 2011-12 full year forecast surplus is set at \$2.18 million.

The AVO's travel expenditure is associated with providing services directly to government clients and regular meetings with leaders and staff. The AVO has 232 staff in 13 office locations. Of these 232, there are a total of 33 working from home arrangements in place across Australia. In 2011-12, the AVO is planning and delivering significant change to the organisation. As part of this change agenda, the AVO allocated travel budget to ensure appropriate engagement with all AVO staff in planning and delivering this change. The travel expenditure for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 for the AVO is \$1,337,684.

A breakdown of staff travel by classification from 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 is provided in the following table:

Year to date staff travel by classification 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012	
Classification	\$ amount (excluding GST)
SES Band 1	\$ 126,681
EL 2.2	\$ 127,838
EL2.1	\$ 202,190
EL 1	\$527,467
Valuers	\$253,729
APS 1-6 and contractors	\$ 99,779
Total	\$ 1,337,684