

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

**Question: BET 983-987**

**Topic: Travel Costs**

**Hansard Page: Written (Received from Committee - 13 June 2012)**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

983. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel 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).
984. For the financial year to date, please 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).
985. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed?  
How is this monitored?  
If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
986. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees?  
If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
987. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them?  
If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

**Answer:**

983. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources'

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Domestic Flight expenditure 1/7/2011 to 31/5/2012 excl of GST	\$ 1,479,096
Domestic WoAG and TMC Charges	\$ 37,897
International Flight expenditure 1/7/2011 to 31/5/2012 No GST applicable	\$ 1,493,431
International WoAG and TMC Charges	\$ 26,019
Travel Allowance	
Total Domestic Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation,TA, Part Day TA)	\$ 616,972
Total International Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation and TA)	\$ 573,421

Note: The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow reporting on travel for Departmental officers only. Expenditure figures will include some expenditure for non-officers on Treasury administered Boards and Panels.

985. Yes. Policy and guidelines are being followed. Compliance is monitored through monthly reports provided by our Travel Management Company.
986. SES employees have an entitlement to a lounge membership. Non SES employees' are able to access lounge membership subject to appropriate approval on the basis of frequency of travel in accordance with the Chief Executive Instructions. This is reviewed on an annual basis. Total lounge membership cost for period 1/7/2011 to 31/5/2012 was \$12,023
987. No support or administrative staff travelled with SES employees from 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012.