

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

Question: BET 408-415

Topic: Travel Costs

Written: 17 June 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

408. 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 includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
409. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
410. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
411. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
412. What is the policy for business class airfare tickets? Is there still a reduction in business flights as per the media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State dated 25 September 2012?
413. 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.
414. 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.
415. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

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BET 408 - Topic: FYTD Travel Costs Departmental Officers (1 July 2012 - 31 May 2013)

Meeting		Date	Location	Minister	Treasury Officials	Treasury Officials costs	
1	Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting (FEMM)	2 - 4 Jul 2012	Kiribati	Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation, The Hon. Bernie Ripoll	x 2	air	\$10,101
						meals	\$360
						accomm	\$206
2	Business delegation to China	11 - 15 Jul 2012	Beijing, China	Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP	x 4	air	\$15,858
						meals	\$1,634
						accomm	\$1,506
3	APEC Finance Ministers Meeting	30-Aug-12	Moscow, Russian Fed	The Hon Penny Wong, representing The Hon. Wayne Swan	x 2	air	\$13,960
						meals	\$1,880
						accomm	\$3,738
4	IMF/ World Bank Annual Meetings	12 - 14 Oct 2012	Tokyo, Japan	Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP	x 4	air	\$22,836
						meals	\$5,472
						accomm	\$16,214
5	EAS FMM	13-Oct	Tokyo, Japan	Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP	x 1	air	no additional cost included above
					meals		
					accomm		
6	Asia-Europe Finance Ministers' Meeting	14 - 15 Oct 2012	Bangkok, Thailand	Assistant Treasur, Hon David Bradbury	x 1	air	\$1,210
						meals	\$541
						accomm	\$666
7	G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting	4 - 5 Nov 2012	Mexico City, Mexico	Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon.	x 6	air	\$48,612.78
						meals	\$3,738.50

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15	Asian Development Bank Meeting	2 - 5 May 2013	New Delhi, India	Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, Hon. Bernie Ripoll	x 3	air meals accomm	\$11,926.56 \$1,148.88 \$3,268.06
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Meals and incidentals also include other travel expenditure (such as ground transport)

10 - Supported by Treasury person at post, therefore no costs incurred

14 - One traveller attended both meetings 13 & 14; therefore airfares, meals and allowance have been recorded against 13 only for this officer.

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409.

Domestic Flight expenditure 1/7/2012 to 31/5/2013 exclusive of GST	\$988,364
Domestic WoAG and TMC Charges	\$31,367
International Flight expenditure 1/7/2012 to 31/5/2013 No GST applicable	\$1,450,839
International WoAG and TMC Charges	\$26,670
Travel Allowance	
Total Domestic Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation, TA, Part Day TA)	\$507,906
Total International Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation and TA)	\$421,443
Note: Alcohol, gifts and entertainment are not paid to staff and are not included in these figures	

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided in relation to class of travel. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Travel was undertaken to meet business operational requirements.

410. Travel will be undertaken to meet operational business requirements for the remainder of the financial year.
411. Travel will be undertaken to meet operational business requirements for the remainder of the calendar year.
412. Business class flights in proportion to overall travel have continued to decrease this financial year.
413. SES employees have an entitlement to airline 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 CEIs. This is reviewed on an annual basis. Cost for period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 - \$ 15,218
414. Two support/administrative staff travelled with SES employees from 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013. Support staff were required to provide support at the Tri-Treasury Delegation in Sydney 12-14 December 2012.
Total costs \$ 1,782.90
415. No, the WoAG fares do not include a component for the purchase of Carbon Offsets / Carbon Credits.