

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0455_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Travel costs

a) Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, 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). b) Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, 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. c) What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer

- a) The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided for this question.
- b) For the period 1 March 2014 to 30 June 2014, the Department of Employment¹, spent \$1,017,087.82 on travel expenses. The breakdown of expenses is \$449,567.60 for airfares, \$200,488.27 on accommodation and \$367,031.95 on other costs. To provide the requested level of detail would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- c) The department does not specifically budget or plan for individual travel. Travel is one cost of the department's business of policy and programme administration. Travel is undertaken for a range of purposes, including to meet with services providers or grant recipients for compliance or administration purposes, and to consult on government policies and programmes.

For the 2013-14 financial year, costs associated with Corporate and the State Office Network functions of the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations cannot be simply attributed to the individual new departments. The value associated with these functions has been attributed to both departments.