

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EM0459_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWC - 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) No Commission staff or Members accompanied a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary on any travel.
- (b) The Fair Work Commission is a national organisation with hearings conducted both in capital cities and regional locations. Travel is primarily undertaken by Tribunal Members and staff for the conduct of proceedings.

The total travel expenditure of the Commission from 1 February 2014 to 31 May 2014 was approximately \$487,534. The type of journey may have been by air, rail or by private car. The cost includes fares, travel allowance, ComCars, hire cars, taxis and parking. Given the number of travel movements, the Commission have not provided a break down of each trip as to attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.

- (c) Travel planned is primarily subject to case loads and hearings.