

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM1511_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Travel costs - ministerial

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. Please detail all travel conducted by the Minister/parliamentary secretary
2. List each location, method of travel, itinerary and purpose of trip;
3. List the total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals), and;
4. List the number of staff that accompanied the Minister/parliamentary secretary, listing the total costs per staff member, the class of airplane travelled, the classification of staff accompanying the Minister/parliamentary secretary.
5. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer

1, 2 and 3. Costs of official travel by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and their staff are met by the Department of Finance (DoF). Any questions regarding those costs or arrangements should be referred to DoF.

4. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided for this question.

5. 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 service providers or grant recipients for compliance or administration purposes, and to consult on government policies and programmes.