

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15**

**Finance Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance  
**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1  
**Topic:** Travel by the Coalition Advisory Service's staff

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question reference number:** F30

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA Committee, Pages 106-107, 24 February 2015

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 10 April 2015

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator LUDWIG:** I am just making sure so that I can ask them about that issue. Do they have travel allocation or is that Parliamentary Services?

**Ms Moy:** No, they do travel. I do not have the details here with me but I can provide travel details.

**Senator LUDWIG:** What I was seeking was what the travel allocation was, if that is the best way of putting it. Do they have unlimited travel? Is it capped? Is it interstate only? Is it return or follow the whip only? In other words, what are the rules? It is not an electorate office as such is it; it is a coalition advisory—

**Ms Halton:** We will get you something on notice.

**Senator LUDWIG:** If they do travel—is that published every six months?

**Ms Moy:** I would have to check. Generally, staff travel costs are included in the monthly management reports. In terms of staff travel costs in the six-monthly reports, I will need to check for you.

**Senator LUDWIG:** As the minister correctly identified, if you provide this information on a six-monthly basis then do not provide it. I will wait for that. But if it is not provided at all, then I would like to know what it is, and I do not need to wait for the six months on that basis.

**Ms Halton:** Yes, we will come back to you.

...

**Senator LUDWIG:** Absolutely. That is why I said whatever you do on the six-monthly report. My recollection is it is very careful about how it provides the information. If it is not on the six-monthly report then I would ask for a total cost of the travel undertaken since 7 September by that unit. But if it is on the six-monthly report, then I will search through that. I take it that will appear on the Chief Government Whip's six-monthly report?

**Ms Moy:** I will check it for you. There is an anomaly sometimes on what travel is reported in terms of staffing. I will check for you whether or not staffing travel for everybody is actually in the six-monthly reports.

**Answer:**

All Government, Opposition and cross-bench personal employees may travel as directed anywhere within Australia on official business. There is no 'cap' on the amount of travel that may be undertaken.

Details of the Government, Opposition and cross-bench employee travel are not published every six months.

The total cost of travel for the Coalition Advisory Service from 7 September 2013 to 24 February 2015 (inclusive) was \$53,557.58.