

Question: 118
Topic: Travel costs - departmental
Written: 23 February 2016

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September 2015:

- 1 Is the Minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
- 2 If so, under what policy?
- 3 Provide a copy of that policy.
- 4 When was this policy implemented?
- 5 When is the Minister notified, when is approved provided?
- 6 Detail all travel (domestic and international) 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)
- 7 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.
- 8 What date was the Minister or their office notified of the travel?
- 9 What date did the Minister or their office approve the travel?
- 10 What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer

- 1 Not applicable.
- 2 Not applicable.
- 3 Not applicable.
- 4 Not applicable
- 5 Not applicable.
- 6 Not applicable.
- 7 In September 2015, at the request of the Korean Institute of Public Finance on behalf of the Korean Ministry of Strategy and Finance, the Parliamentary Budget Officer presented at the 4th International Policy Forum on Budgeting in Seoul, Korea. The total cost of the airfares, accommodation and incidental expenses was met by the Korean authorities.

In November 2015, the Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Corporate Strategy Branch, attended the Jawun Executive visit to the Central Coast. The total cost for this travel was \$1,710.47 (excluding GST), comprising \$199.97 for domestic flights and the remainder for accommodation, meals and incidentals.

In November 2015, the Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Revenue Analysis Branch and the First Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Fiscal Policy Analysis Division attended the 2015 Economic and Social Outlook Conference in Melbourne. The total cost of this travel was \$1,107.10 (excluding GST), comprising \$481.83 for domestic flights, \$381.82 for accommodation and \$243.45 for meals and incidentals.

In November 2015, the First Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Budget Analysis Division, presented at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Party number 2 focus group, and the Joint Meeting of Tax and Environment Experts meetings in Paris. The total cost of this travel was \$9,705.12 (excluding GST), comprising \$7,008.38 for international flights, \$1,736.24 for accommodation, and \$960.50 for meals and incidentals.

In February 2016, the First Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Fiscal Policy Analysis Division, attended the Grattan Institute Policy Forum in Melbourne. The total cost of this travel was \$368.52 (excluding GST), comprising \$289.72 for domestic flights, and \$78.80 for incidentals. Accommodation expenses were included in the event registration fee.

8 Not applicable.

9 Not applicable.

10 In April 2016, the Parliamentary Budget Officer plans to travel to Paris to participate in the 8th annual meeting of the OECD Parliamentary Budget Officials and Independent Fiscal Institutions. This travel is expected to cost approximately \$9,000 (excluding GST).