

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee:
Answers to written Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014–15
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio
October 2014**

Department	Parliamentary Budget Office
Topic	Travel costs - department
Senator	Senator Ludwig
Question reference number	163
Type of question	Written

Question

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

- 1 Is the Minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
 - a If so, under what policy?
 - b Provide a copy of that policy.
 - c When was this policy implemented?
 - d List all occurrences of travel that this has occurred under.
 - e Detail the process.
 - f When is the Minister notified, when is approval provided?
- 2 Detail all travel (domestic and international) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include total cost plus a breakdown that includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
- 3 Detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include total cost plus a breakdown that includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- 4 What date was the Minister or their office notified of the travel?
- 5 What date did the Minister or their office approve the travel?
- 6 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 In June 2014, the Parliamentary Budget Officer, presented at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Fiscal policy seminar in Tokyo with the majority of costs reimbursed by the IMF. The total cost for this travel was \$5,852.74 (excluding GST), comprising \$4,644.89 of international flights, \$520.07 for accommodation and \$687.78 for meals and incidentals of which \$4,644.89 was reimbursed by IMF.

In June 2014, the Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Fiscal Policy Analysis Branch, attended the 2014 Economic and Social Outlook Conference in Melbourne. The total cost for this travel was \$371.50 (excluding GST), comprising \$203.32 of domestic flights, \$168.18 for accommodation.

In November 2014, the First Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Budget Analysis Division presented at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Green Growth and Sustainable Development forum and chaired the OECD Working Party number 2 and the Joint Meeting of Tax and Environmental Experts meetings in Paris. This travel is estimated to cost approximately \$19,500 (excluding GST).

- 4 Not applicable.
- 5 Not applicable.
- 6 Nil.