

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: General

Question No. AE16/109

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

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.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. No.

2-5. Not applicable.

6. For the period 14 September 2015 to 9 February 2016 please see the response in the table below for portfolio officers who accompanied ministers on overseas travel. To provide a further breakdown of travel costs would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Description	Exclusive of GST and Inclusive of Taxes, if applicable
Overseas Airfares	\$80,506.69
Overseas Accommodation	\$26,019.11
Overseas Travel Allowance and Incidentals	\$5,705.27
Total	\$112,231.07

7. The total costs for the portfolio are provided in the table below. In some cases, to provide a breakdown of travel costs and an explanation for travel undertaken would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Department/ Agency	Description	Expenditure	
Attorney-General's Department	Domestic Airfares	\$1,258,192.97 (GST excl.)	
	Domestic Travel Allowance and Incidentals	\$585,780.19 (GST excl.)	
	Domestic Accommodation	\$869,046.12 (GST excl.)	
	Domestic other- includes ground transport, car parking and memberships	\$85,166.22 (GST excl.)	
	Overseas Airfares	\$592,975.95 (GST excl.)	
	Overseas Accommodation	\$230,457.52 (GST excl.)	
	Overseas Travel Allowance and Incidentals	\$139,638.90 (GST excl.)	
	AGS domestic and international travel expenses	\$221,104 (GST excl.)	
	AGS do not separately account for domestic and international travel expenses. The amount of work required to disaggregate the expenditure would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources and have been disclosed separately above.		
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	Domestic Airfares	\$317,190	
	Domestic Travel Allowance	\$154,820	
Australian Crime Commission	Domestic Airfares	\$336,479.69	
	Domestic Accommodation	\$234,365.98	
	Overseas Airfares	\$68,784.65 (GST exc.)	
	Overseas Accommodation	\$9,212.92 (GST exc.)	
	Combined Travel Allowance and Incidentals	\$190,173.68 (GST exc.)	
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity		\$92,044	
Australian Federal Police	Overseas Airfares	Economy	\$1,596,645
		Business	\$211,731
	Domestic Airfares	Economy	\$1,337,347
		Business	\$26,974
	Accommodation		\$4,259,976.82
	Overseas Meal Expenditure		\$112,715.01
	Domestic Travel Allowance		\$2,617,706.15
	Car Rental		\$224,967.71
Taxi Fares		\$423,028.09	
Australian Financial Security Authority		\$318,187.64	
Australian Human Rights Commission	Short Term Vehicle Hire (excludes taxi – see AE16/079 response)	\$14,491	

	Domestic Travel Allowance and Motor Vehicle Allowance	\$92,068
	Domestic Accommodation	\$80,719
	Domestic Airfares (Economy/Business split not readily available)	\$86,358
	Others domestic travel expenses	\$5,098
	International Airfares (Economy/Business split not readily available)	\$125,999
	International Travel Allowance and Accommodation	\$66,101
	Others international travel expenses	\$11,486
	Of the amount identified a total of \$354,635 was fully cost recovered under fee for service arrangements including \$35,699 incurred on behalf of the ADF for the Defence Academy Review and \$292,015 on behalf of DFAT (AUSAID) for the Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program.	
Australian Institute of Criminology		\$60,562
Australian Law Reform Commission		\$9,830.96
Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation	For security reasons, it would not be appropriate to provide details of ASIO's travel.	
AUSTRAC	International Travel	\$376,046
	Domestic Travel	\$593,094
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions		\$478,888.07
CrimTrac		\$157,708
Federal Court of Australia		\$1,477,868
Family Court and Federal Circuit Court		\$1,489,357
High Court of Australia		\$209,717 (ex GST)
National Archives of Australia		\$225,645.52
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner		\$98,332.60
Office of Parliamentary Counsel		\$17,975

8-9. The Attorney-General and the Minister for Justice approve travel by portfolio officials as appropriate, including overseas travel by agency heads and delegation overseas travel over \$20,000. To provide further detail for the portfolio would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

10. Travel is undertaken as necessary in response to standard operational requirements. To provide further detail for the portfolio would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.