

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australia Post**

**Question No: 73**

**Program No. Australia Post**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Travel Costs**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

- a) For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental/agency 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.
- b) What travel is planned for the rest of from 7 September 2013? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- c) What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- d) What is the policy for business class airfare tickets?
- e) Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
- f) When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.
- g) Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

**Answer:**

- (a-c) Australia Post spent a total of \$2.0m on air travel and \$1.5m on accommodation for business-related purposes FYTD (as at 31 October 2013). The specific details sought about travel/future travel across the entire corporation are not captured on any central database. As such, Australia Post is unable to provide the information requested.
- (d) Australia Post executives are entitled to travel business class for international flights.
- (e) Australia Post Executive General Managers and Board of Directors are entitled to lounge membership. For other employees, membership may be approved by the relevant Executive General Manager where it is expected the employee will be required to travel frequently as part of their position. Membership ceases on termination of employment.

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Consistent with normal business practice, Australia Post offers this benefit in recognition of the inconvenience and personal sacrifice involved when undertaking frequent business-related travel. The specific details sought about lounge membership across the entire corporation are not captured on any central database. As such, Australia Post is not in a position to provide the information requested.

- (f) This question relates to government employees and is, therefore, not relevant to Australia Post.
- (g) No.