

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: **AET 307 - 310**

Topic: **Travel Costs (ABS)**

Hansard Page: **Written**

Senator BUSHBY asked:

307. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
308. Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.
309. 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 cost per employee.
310. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as their 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.

Answer:

307. The total cost of all travel related expenditure for the Australian Bureau of Statistics for period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 was \$16,697,638 (exclusive of GST).

All travel is incurred for business purposes and is undertaken on the basis of efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of Commonwealth resources. With respect to air travel, the Australian Bureau of Statistics undertakes this travel in line with the whole of Australian Government air travel policy to seek out the lowest practical fare.

308. Yes.
309. Yes. Lounge memberships are provided to employees who qualify under the ABS Enterprise Agreement 2011-14 and as part of the employment package for SES staff.
310. Administrative support staff do not accompany SES staff whilst travelling.