

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 287 - 290

Topic: Travel Costs (Tsy)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

287. 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.
288. Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.
289. 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.
290. 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:

287. Total domestic flight expenditure from 1 Jul 2011 to 31 Jan 2012 = \$963,588.
Total international flight expenditure from 1 Jul 2011 to 31 Jan 2012 = \$1,019,781.
(Our reporting system is not able to break down classes of travel – It should be assumed all international travel is business class.)
- Total domestic travel allowance expenditure from 1 Jul 2011 to 31 Jan 2012
= \$174,738.
Total international travel allowance expenditure from 1 Jul 2011 to 31 Jan 2012
= \$290,136.
(This amount is inclusive of accommodation, meals and incidentals. Alcohol, gifts and entertainment are not paid to staff and are not included in these figures.)
288. All employees take the most direct route to suit their business needs.
289. SES employees have an entitlement to Qantas lounge membership. Non SES employees are able to access lounge membership subject to the appropriate approval on the basis of frequency of travel. This is reviewed on an annual basis. Total lounge membership expenditure from 1 July 2011 to 31 Jan 2012 was \$8,363.
290. No support or administrative staff travelled with SES employees from 1 July 2011 to 31 Jan 2012.