

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 948-950

Topic: Travel Costs (ATO)

Written: 5 March 2014

Senator LUDWIG asked:

- 948) From 7 September 2013, detail all travel 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).
- 949) From 7 September 2013, 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.
- 950) What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

- 948) From 7 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, no ATO officers have been required to accompany the Ministers or the Parliamentary Secretary on their travel.
- 949) For the period from 7 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, ATO expenditure on travel related costs (including the Australian Valuation Office, Australian Business Register, Tax Practitioners Board and Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission) was \$18.59 million.

A breakdown of this expenditure is provided in Table 1 below. Table 2 provides a breakdown of airfare expenditure by class. Further breakdown of this information would entail an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Table 1: Travel related expenditure 7 September 2013 to 28 February 2014

Travel expenditure by category	(\$m)
Air travel	8.30
Travel Allowance Payments*	6.04
Taxi Fares	2.17
Fleet Costs	1.78
Other Incidental Travel Costs	0.30
Total	18.59

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Table 2: 2013-14 Airfare expenditure 7 September 2013 to 28 February 2014

Airfares Expenditure by class	Economy (\$m)	Business (\$m)	First Class (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Domestic	4.76	3.04	-	7.80
International	0.06	0.42	0.02	0.50
Total	4.82	3.46	0.02	8.30

The ATO is a large organisation with offices around Australia and over 80 per cent of its staff located outside of Canberra. The need for the ATO to connect with staff, the community, businesses and tax professionals spread across the country necessitates official travel by employees in the course of their ordinary duties.

- 950) The ATO is unable to quantify or provide itemised data specifically related to what travel is planned for the rest of this financial year.