

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
20 October 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Travel Expenses Community Cabinet Meetings

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-47

1. What was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates 2010?
2. How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?
3. What was the total cost of this travel?
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office?

ANSWER

1. There are no costs associated with the Minister's travel for Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates 2010 as the Minister did not attend the only Community Cabinet meeting held since that time. This meeting was held in Perth on 9 June 2010, and the Minister was formally represented by Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig.
2. Although the Minister did not attend, two Ministerial staff and two departmental officers attended the Community Cabinet meeting in Perth on 9 June 2010.
3. The total cost of this travel was \$9,555.97.
4. The total cost (GST exclusive) for Departmental staff was \$3,113.29. The cost of the travel for Ministerial staff was funded by the Department of Finance and Deregulation and totalled \$6,442.68*.

* The travel to the Perth meeting includes additional destinations not relevant to the Community Cabinet meeting. Given the nature of the flight booking, the cost of the additional destinations are not able to be disaggregated from the cost of travel to attend Community Cabinet meetings.