

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 74

Topic: Travel costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

For the year FYTD, 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.

Answer:

The ATO has spent \$16.0 million on travel related costs for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 October 2011.

Within this amount, \$7.0 million was for air travel, \$5.6 million for travel allowance payments and \$3.4 million for other incidental travel costs including taxi fares.

The ATO's 2011-12 airfare expenditure by type and class is set out in the table below:

Airfares (\$m)	Economy	Business	TOTAL
Domestic	\$4.04	\$2.82	\$6.86
International	\$0.00	\$0.12	\$0.12
TOTAL	\$4.04	\$2.94	\$6.98

All ATO travel is undertaken for official work purposes and only approved if it is essential to ATO business. The rate of travel allowance paid is set out in relevant workplace agreements and is paid to meet the cost of accommodation, meals and other incidental expenses incurred while undertaking official travel.

The ATO's travel policy generally requires that all domestic travel be undertaken using economy class airfares. Senior Executive Service (SES) employees are entitled to travel domestically using business class airfares. Overseas travel is generally undertaken using business class airfares. However, SES are entitled to first class airfares if business class is not available.

Because of the significant volume of travel undertaken by the ATO it is not practicable to itemise all travel undertaken over the period 1 July 2011 to 31 October 2011.