

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

**Outcome/Agency**      All

**DEEWR Question No. EW0958\_09**

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW784\_09*

**Question**

*Ministerial Travel*

How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? For these staff/family what was the cost of:

- a) travel
- b) accommodation, and
- c) any other expenses

**Answer**

Ministers are provided with a range of entitlements, with the costs of these being shared between a number of Agencies. Costs of official overseas travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, family (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

The details of the Ministers' personal staff and family overseas travel costs from the 2008 Budget Estimates to the 2008 Budget Supplementary Estimates 2008 was tabled by the department in EW784\_09.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that, since 2008 Budget Supplementary Estimates, the Hon Julia Gillard MP travelled to Switzerland from 28 January to 2 February 2009 accompanied by two personal staff. The Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that it has not yet fully reconciled the costs of this travel.

The dates, destinations, purpose and costs of all official overseas travel are tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled '*Parliamentarians' Travel Paid By The Department of Finance and Deregulation*'.