

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

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

**Outcome/Agency**      All

**DEEWR Question No. EW0969\_09**

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW787\_09*

**Question**

*Community Cabinet*

How many Ministerial staff and departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the [Community] Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel?

**Answer**

Ministers are provided with a range of entitlements, with the costs of these being shared between a number of Agencies. The Department of Finance and Deregulation is responsible for the payment of travelling allowances and travel costs within Australia by Ministers and their personal staff on the same basis that applies to all MOP(S) Act employees.

The department is responsible for the cost of travel by departmental officers.

The details of both the Ministers' personal staff, and departmental officers' travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings from the 2008 Budget Estimates to the 2008 Budget Supplementary Estimates 2008 was tabled by the department in EW787\_09.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that eight personal staff in total attended the three Community Cabinet meetings held since the 2008 Budget Supplementary Estimates, at an estimated cost of \$5 335.

Three departmental officers have attended the three Community Cabinet meetings held since the 2008 Supplementary Estimates. The cost is estimated at \$1 251.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Costs are calculated on commercial travel only and cannot account for the officers' use of their own vehicle.