

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0355\_14**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Travel costs - department***

1. 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). 2. 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. 3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer**

1. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided for this question, at the level of detail requested. To attempt to do so would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

2. In the 2013-14 financial year, it is not possible to fully disaggregate expenditure between the Department of Education and the Department of Employment.

- For expenditure that can be identified as belonging to the Department of Education only, total expenditure on travel from 18 September 2013 to 28 February 2014 was \$752,291.96 (including \$336,959.84 for airfares, \$93,839.11 for accommodation and \$321,493.01 for other expenses).
- For expenditure that cannot be disaggregated, the combined expenditure on travel by the corporate areas of both departments and the former DEEWR State Network from 18 September 2013 to 28 February 2014 was \$1,336,187.04 (including \$448,597.68 for airfares, \$359,350.99 for accommodation and \$528,238.37 for other expenses).

3. The department does not specifically budget or plan for individual travel. Travel is one cost of the department's business of policy and programme administration. Travel is undertaken for a range of purposes including to meet with providers of services or grant recipients for compliance or administration purposes and to consult on government policies and programmes.