

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0249_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Travel costs - department

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

Answer

The Department of Employment was established on 18 September 2013. Previously the functions were delivered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

- a. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided for this question.
- b. For the period 18 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, the Department of Employment¹, spent \$2 175 969.75 on travel expenses. The breakdown of expenses is \$838 164.03 for airfares, \$544 507.76 on accommodation and \$793 297.96 on other costs. To provide the requested level of detail would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- d. 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.

¹ Corporate and the State Office Network provide services to the Department of Employment and the Department of Education. The value associated with these functions has been attributed to both departments.