

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.3 – International Education Group

DEST Question No. E291_05 and E292_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

How many overseas trips were taken by employees in DEST in 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 to date? What were the final destinations of these overseas trips?

What was the total cost of overseas trips of staff of DEST in 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04? How much was the total cost of accommodation allowances? How much was the total cost of food allowances? How much was the total of cost for airfares?

Answer:

Overseas trips

Answers to these questions were provided under Questions on Notice 1014 and 1015 from the February 2004 Additional Estimates Hearing. In those answers, the year 2003-04 was for the part year to March 2004. The records on expenditure on overseas travel for the full financial year are now available and are attached.

The data provided previously for the part year to March 2004 were incomplete due to the lag in credit card acquittals for international trips.

Please note the variance in the amounts for allowances and accommodation compared to previous years. With the introduction of the Diners card for accommodation, 2003-04 data now more clearly delineate accommodation from meal allowances. Data in previous years were not able to separate meal allowances from accommodation, and such data were shown under accommodation.

Although trip numbers per year have remained relatively static, the destinations and durations of trips have increased costs over previous years due to the expansion of the International Network into the Americas and Europe, and the addition of the Science function and Questacon to the portfolio.

2003 - 2004	Trips		
Austria	1		
Belgium	1		
Brazil	2		
Canada	5		
Chile	3		
China	11		
Fiji	1		
France	7		
Germany	2		
India	6		
Indonesia	1		
Ireland	1		
Japan	4		
Malaysia	3		
Mexico	1		
New Zealand	10	Breakdown of Total Costs *	
Norway	1		
Portugal	1	Total Allowances (meals and incidentals)	\$128,235.71
Singapore	4		
South Korea	3	Total Airfares	\$324,395.47
Switzerland	2		
Thailand	2	Total Accommodation	\$59,055.10
United Kingdom	6		
USA	6	Other costs (car hire, taxis, etc)	5,822.95
Totals	84		\$517,409.23