

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No.EW0027_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Travel Costs

For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include what sum was spent on travel, accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.

Answer

Portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries

Costs of official travel by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance).

Information about destinations and the cost of travel undertaken by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries is tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*. The report also includes car transport costs as advised by other Departments in respect of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Finance website.

Finance has advised that it is not possible to individually report on all the separate items requested in the question. Costs for domestic accommodation, food and incidental expenses are met by individual travellers from domestic travelling allowances.

Portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries accompanying staff

Costs of travel by any accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are also included in the report tabled in the Parliament every six months titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Finance website.

Finance has advised that it is also not possible to individually report on all the separate items requested in the question as costs are met by individual travellers from domestic travelling allowances paid as a daily rate.

Departmental Officers

The Department was able to identify three occasions on which Departmental officers accompanied Ministers on official travel. These were:

- One DEEWR officer accompanied Minister Evans (31 October to 6 November 2010) at a total cost of \$10,792.44.
- One DEEWR officer accompanied Senator Collins (7 to 19 June 2011) at a total cost of \$18,045.34.
- One DEEWR officer accompanied Ministers Evans and Garrett to a Community Cabinet on 2 December 2010 at a total cost of \$1,347.99.