

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome *Cross Portfolio*

DEEWR Question No. EW787_09

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

Question

- (i) What was the cost of Ministers' travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates?
- (ii) How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the [Community] Cabinet meeting?
- (iii) What was the total cost of this travel?

Answer

Administration related to office bearers and staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act), including payment of costs associated with travel, is the responsibility of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

The department is responsible for the payment of travel costs for departmental officers.

- (i) The Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation has estimated the funding of Ministers' travel to the four Community Cabinet meetings since Budget Estimates at \$13,124.27.
- (ii) With regard to ministerial staff, the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised the number of staff accompanying the attending Ministers, since Budget Estimates, totalled 17.

With regard to departmental officers, the number of staff accompanying the attending Ministers to the four Community Cabinet meetings since Budget Estimates was five.

- (iii) The Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation has estimated the cost of ministerial staff travel to the four Community Cabinet meetings since Budget Estimates at \$29,789.20.

The department estimates the cost of its officers attending the four Community Cabinet meetings since Budget Estimates at \$12,658.53.