

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome Corporate

DEEWR Question No. EW810_10

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

Question

Ministerial Travel

Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates?

If so, where was the travel and what was the duration?

What was the total cost of:

- a) travel
- b) accommodation, and
- c) any other expenses?

Answer

The Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) has advised DEEWR that since the 2009 Budget Estimates the Hon Julia Gillard MP has travelled overseas on official business three times.

- From 17 to 28 June 2009 to the USA and Israel.
- From 29 August to 4 September 2009 to India.
- From 3 to 12 October 2009 to the USA.

Costs associated with the Ministers travel to the USA and Israel are as follows:

- (a) \$19,555.18
- (b) \$3,109.65
- (c) \$8,347.32

Costs of official overseas travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, accompanying spouses (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 are paid for by Finance. Finance has advised that expenditure for the two overseas visits to India and the US since Budget Estimates has not yet been reconciled. Dates, destinations, the purpose and costs of all official overseas travel are tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled Parliamentarians' Travel Paid By The Department of Finance and Deregulation. These reports are now also published to the Finance web site.

Finance also advises that there has been no travel for other portfolio Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries since the 2009 Budget Estimates.