

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

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

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0539_12

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Travel Costs

3. For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately,) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses. 4. For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff 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. 5. For the year 2010-11, 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. 6. For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses. 7. For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses. 8. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff 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. 9. 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. 10. For the year FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses. "

Answer

Questions 3, 4, 7, 8. Costs of official travel by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are borne 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 6 months in a report titled Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Finance has advised that it is not possible to individually report on all of the separate items requested in this question.

5. The agencies in the Portfolio do not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided for this question.

6. To provide the requested level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources. The total cost of travel for the 2010-2011 financial year and the associated number of trips are provided in the table below:

Dept/ Agency	2010-11 \$	2010-11 Trips
DEEWR	14,403,710	12,381
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABCC)	1,217,834	922
Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA)	324,000	1270
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)	719,781	1,195
Comcare	3,106,000	Not available
Fair Work Australia (FWA)	2,465,611	Not available
Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO)	3,577,408	Not available
Safe Work Australia (SWA)	529,093	567

Notes:

ACARA information reflects the cost and number of flights taken only.

Comcare and FWA are unable to provide information regarding the number of trips.

Please note ASQA and TEQSA commenced operations in the 2011-2012 year.

9. The agencies in the Portfolio do not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided for this question.

10. To provide the requested level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources. The total cost of travel for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 and the associated number of trips are provided in the table below:

Dept/ Agency	2011-12 \$	2011-12 Trips
DEEWR	4,175,725	3,275
Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABCC)	290,590	247
Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA)	76,000	309
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)	275,008	423
Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)	221,976	125
Comcare	755,604	Not available
Fair Work Australia (FWA)	696,184	Not available
Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO)	854,632	913
Safe Work Australia (SWA)	191,010	141
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Authority (TEQSA)	48,749	Not available

Notes:

ACARA information reflects the cost and number of flights taken only.

Comcare, FWA and TEQSA are unable to provide information regarding the number of trips.

