

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0451_13

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Community Cabinet Meetings 2011-12

1. How many Community Cabinet meetings did the Minister attend in 2011-12? List date and location. 2. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for 2011-12? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. 3. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location. 4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for 2011-12?

Answer

1. Costs of official travel by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and their staff are met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DOFD). Any questions regarding those costs or arrangements should be referred to DOFD.
2. For the 2011-12 financial year, 1 departmental officer travelled with the Minister for Community Cabinet meetings. The total cost for this official was \$3,349.33. All other Community Cabinet meetings were attended by regional DEEWR staff at no cost. Travel was via air, with an accommodation cost of \$212.95 and other costs of \$154.38.
3. A Canberra based DEEWR officer attended the Darwin Community Cabinet on 30 June 2011 (for which expenses were paid during 2011-12). Regional DEEWR staff attended the meetings at Yeronga Queensland on 1 September 2011, at Kingston Tasmania on 3 October 2011, at Werribee Victoria on 9 November 2011, at Parramatta New South Wales on 4 April 2012 and at Berwick Victoria on 16 May 2012.
4. With respect to the Minister's Office, please see 1 above. The costs incurred by DEEWR were \$3,349.33.