

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates February 2005

Question: HS23

Outcome 1, Output 1.1 - Effective delivery of Australian Government services to eligible Customers

Topic: Overseas Travel

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

Senator Evans asked on 15 February 2005:

- (1) How many overseas trips were taken by Centrelink employees in each of the last five financial years?
- (2) Indicate the destinations of each of these overseas trips.
- (3) Provide a table showing the cost of all overseas travel undertaken by Centrelink officials over the last five financial years. Provide a breakdown of the cost of accommodation allowances, food allowances and airflights.

Answer:

(1) and (2) The number of overseas trips undertaken by Centrelink employees in each of the last five financial years and their destinations are:

1999 - 00	= 24;	13 United States of America/Canada, 5 New Zealand, 2 Singapore, 1 China, 3 Europe
2000 - 01	= 51;	21 United States of America/Canada, 16 New Zealand, 1 Singapore, 1 China, 10 Europe, 1 Japan, 1 South Africa
2001 - 02	= 54;	14 United States of America/Canada, 16 New Zealand, 14 Singapore, 10 Europe
2002 - 03	= 66;	19 United States of America/Canada, 8 New Zealand, 7 Singapore, 5 China, 21 Europe, 4 Bali, 1 Vietnam, 1 India
2003 - 04	= 83;	29 United States of America/Canada, 15 New Zealand, 2 Singapore, 8 Europe, 22 Bali, 1 Brunei, 3 Vietnam, 1 Malaysia, 2 Thailand

(3) A breakdown of the costs for overseas trips undertaken by Centrelink employees is:

Financial Year	Airfares	Meals, incidentals, other allowances	Accommodation	Total
1999-00	\$106,390	\$43,517	\$39,087	\$188,994
2000-01	\$258,706	\$158,555	\$64,697	\$481,958
2001-02	\$241,160	\$72,560	\$77,616	\$391,336
2002-03	\$461,758	\$159,489	\$212,326	\$833,574
2003-04	\$403,698	\$135,292	\$126,778	\$665,768

Note: The figures in the above table have been rounded.