

## **Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2009**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

### **Outcome 3, Output 3.1**

**Topic: Caucus Committees Support and Training Unit**

**Question reference number: F74(a-e)**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009**

**Number of Pages: 2**

**Senator Ronaldson asked:**

- (a) What is the purpose of the travel undertaken by the staff of the CCSTU? Can you provide us with some examples of the duties they perform that necessitate travel?
- (b) Can you provide the committee, with a list of home bases of each of the CCSTU members?
- (c) Is the travel budget for CCSTU appropriated in the same way as that of staff employed under the MOP(S) Act? If not, from where is it appropriated?
- (d) Can you provide the committee with an updated estimate of annual costs of operation of the CCSTU, including salaries, travel expenses, ministerial and parliamentary allowance, administrative expenses and other?
- (e) Can you provide an update on any assets that may have been added to Suite MG-3 since October 2008?

**Answer:**

(a) Several staff members within the CCSTU undertake a limited amount of travel in connection with their duties and responsibilities. Details of those duties and responsibilities were set out in the answer to Senate Estimates Question on Notice F113 answered on 7 April 2008.

In particular, staff within the CCSTU are required to travel to meet with Parliamentarians and their staff in order provide assistance and advice on the establishment and maintenance of office systems and processes.

In addition, two staff members within the CCSTU live outside of Canberra. Consequently, those staff members are required to travel to and from Canberra to attend Parliamentary sittings.

- (b) Six employees have a home base of Canberra, one employee has a home base of Adelaide and one employee has a home base of Melbourne.
- (c) Yes.

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(d) The administrative support budget for the CCSTU for the financial year 2008-09 is \$155,000. The current annualised salary costs for CCSTU staff (made up of salary, parliamentary allowances and superannuation) are expected to be \$1,096,904.54. The change reflects the salary increase provided under the Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Collective Agreement 2006-2009, effective from 27 November 2008, and the reduction in staffing numbers by one from the October 2008 hearing. There is no annual travel budget for the CCSTU. Based on actual travel costs up to 24 February 2009 of \$83,725.43, travel expenditure for 2008-09 is estimated to be in the order of \$127,865.

(e) No assets have been provided to Suite MG-3 since October 2008.