

SENATE QUESTION

Overseas Travel since 3 December 2007

Question No. 750

Senator Ronaldson asked the Minister representing the Prime Minister in the Senate and Other Ministers on 25 September 2008:

- (1) (a) What overseas travel was undertaken by the Minister; (b) what was the purpose of the Minister's travel; (c) when did the Minister depart Australia; and (d) when did the Minister return to Australia.
- (2) (a) What staff travelled with the Minister; (b) what duties were they expected to perform while overseas; and (c) were they paid an allowance; if so, how much.
- (3) For each trip to the United States of America: (a) with whom did the Minister conduct official meetings; and (b) what was the purpose of those meetings.
- (4) (a) on how many of these trips was the Minister accompanied by a business delegation; and (b) can details be provided of any delegation accompanying the Minister.
- (5) Who met the cost of travel and other expenses associated with each trip.
- (6) What was the total of the travel and associated expenses that were met by the department in relation to: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's family; (c) the Minister's staff; and (d) departmental and/or agency staff.
- (7) What was the total cost, including but not necessarily limited to, fares, allowances, accommodation, hospitality, insurance and other costs, of the visit for: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's family; and (c) the Minister's staff.
- (8) What was the total cost, including but not necessarily limited to, fares, allowances, accommodation, hospitality, insurance and other costs, of the visit for each departmental and/or agency officer.

Senator Evans – The Prime Minister has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

Please see attached.

(1)

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
i	Indonesia, East Timor	Indonesia to meet with the President, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), the President of the World Bank, Sir Nicholas Stern (author of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change), and Mr Al Gore (Former Vice-President of the United States of America and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate), to hold bilateral discussions with other regional Heads of Government, and to attend the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties; and East Timor to meet with the President, Prime Minister and President of the Parliament, and to visit Australian International Stabilisation Force personnel	11 December	14 December
ii	Iraq, Afghanistan	Iraq to meet with the Prime Minister, United States Ambassador and General Petraeus, and to visit Australian Defence Force personnel; and Afghanistan to meet with the President and visit Australian troops	20 December	24 December
iii	East Timor	East Timor to meet with the Prime Minister and UN representative and to visit Australian International Stabilisation Force personnel	15 February	15 February
iv	PNG, Solomon Islands	Papua New Guinea to meet with the Governor-General, Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet and Opposition; and Solomon Islands to meet the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet, and visit personnel attached to the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands	6 March	8 March
v	USA, Belgium, Romania, UK, China	United States of America to meet with the President and other senior political, economic and foreign policy figures and the UN Secretary-General; Belgium to meet with the President and representatives of the European Union; Romania to hold discussions with regional North Atlantic Treaty Organization leaders; the United Kingdom to meet with the Her Majesty The Queen, the Prime Minister, Cabinet members and the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and attend the Progressive Governance Leaders' Summit and Conference; and the People's Republic of China to meet with the President and Premier, and to attend the Forum for Asia in Boao and meet other regional Heads of State and Heads of Government	27 March	13 April
vi	Japan, Indonesia	Japan to meet with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the Prime Minister and other political, business and academic leaders; and Indonesia to meet with the President, Vice President and ASEAN Secretary-General, witness the signings of a number of Memoranda of Understanding and commercial agreements, meet with the Governor of Banda Aceh and meet Australians and Indonesians working on Banda Aceh's reconstruction and rehabilitation	8 June	14 June

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
vii	Japan, Malaysia	The purpose of the Prime Minister's travel to Japan was underscore the importance of the Australia-Japan relationship; to continue to strengthen and expand our economic, strategic and security cooperation; and to discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest. The purpose of the Prime Minister's travel to Malaysia was to highlight the value Australia attaches to its relationship with Malaysia and to further renew bilateral relations through deeper and broader engagement and through working together on issues of mutual interest in the Asia Pacific region	8 July	11 July
viii	China, Korea, Singapore	The purpose of the Prime Minister's visit to China was to support Australian athletes and to represent Australia at the Olympic Games; to support Australian economic/business interests in China; and to hold discussions with the Chinese leadership and other Heads of Government on a range of bilateral, regional and international issues. The purpose of the Prime Minister's travel to the Republic of Korea (ROK) was to reaffirm and strengthen Australia's long-standing economic relationship with ROK; to continue to strengthen Australia's broader relationship with ROK; and to discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest. The purpose of the Prime Minister's visit to Singapore was to reaffirm Australia's long-standing diverse and highly-valued relationship with Singapore, including the defence relationship; to promote Australian economic/business interests; to promote education links; and to discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest	7 August	12 August
ix	New Zealand, Niue	The Prime Minister undertook a bilateral program in Auckland en route to Niue in which he discussed closer cooperation in the Pacific with New Zealand on the eve of the Pacific Islands Forum, and addressed an international climate change conference and bilateral business lunch. In Niue, he attended the annual Forum leaders' meeting, in which he took forward Australia's renewed engagement with the region, including signature of the first Pacific Partnerships for Development	18 August	21 August
x	UNGA 63, New York	The Prime Minister visited New York (i) to hold high-level discussions with key global and US institutions on the unfolding global financial crisis, and (ii) to demonstrate Australia's renewed engagement with the United Nations. The latter was advanced through advocating Australia's approach on key multilateral issues, including the crisis, in a speech at the General Assembly and a series of bilateral leaders' meetings, in the Prime Minister also discussed Australia's Security Council campaign	22 September	27 September

(2) (a, b)

(i)

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(c) Yes, see answer provided in 7.

(3) For each trip to the United States of America: (a) with whom did the Minister conduct official meetings; and (b) what was the purpose of those meetings.

**USA, Belgium, Romania, UK & China
27 March-13 April 2008**

Friday 28 March 2008	
10.10 am to 11.10 am	Meeting with the Honourable George W Bush <i>President</i>
1.10 pm to 1.35 pm	Meeting with the Honourable Richard Cheney <i>Vice President</i>
3.00 pm to 3.45 pm	Meeting with the Honourable Hank Paulson <i>Secretary of the Treasury</i>
4.00 pm to 4.45 pm	Meeting with the Honourable Dr Condoleezza Rice <i>Secretary of State</i>
5.05 pm to 5.45 pm	Meeting with the Honourable Dr Robert Gates <i>Secretary of Defense</i>
6.00 pm to 6.45 pm	Meeting with the Honourable Ben Bernanke <i>Federal Reserve Bank Chairman</i>
Saturday 29 March 2008	
9.30 am to 10.00 am	Meeting with Mr Christopher Cox, <i>Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission</i>
4.00 pm to 4.45 pm	Meeting with His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-Moon <i>Secretary-General, United Nations</i>
Monday 31 March 2008	
2.30 pm to 3.15 pm	Meeting with Senate Leadership <i>led by Harry Reid</i>
Tuesday 1 April 2008	
7.00 am to 8.15 am	Breakfast with senior Administration officials on China (Negroponte, Kimmitt, Shinn, Christensen)
8.30 am to 9.15 am	Meeting with the Honourable John McCain
9.30 am to 10.15 am	Meeting with the Honourable Susan Schwab, <i>United States Trade Representative</i>
10.30 am to 11.15 am	Meeting with the Hon Samuel W Bodman, <i>Secretary of Energy</i>
11.40 am to 12 noon	Meeting with the Honourable Mike McConnell, <i>Director of National Intelligence</i>
2.00 pm to 2.45 pm	Meeting with the Honourable Robert B Zoellick, <i>President of The World Bank</i>
3.00 pm to 3.30 pm	Meeting with House Leadership <i>led by Nancy Pelosi</i>

**New York UNGA 63.
22 to 27 September 2008**

Monday 22 September 2008	
6.35 am to 7.30 am	Breakfast meeting with Admiral Timothy Keating USN, <i>Commander, United States Pacific Command</i>
Tuesday 23 September 2008	
9.00 am to 11.00 am	Attended opening of UNGA63 General Debate Spoke to Hamid Karzai, <i>President of Afghanistan</i> Nicolas Sarkozy, <i>President of France</i>
11.00 am to 11.30 am	Met HE Mr Demetris Christofias, <i>President of the Republic of Cyprus</i>
11.30 am to 12 noon	Met Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, <i>President of Portugal</i>
12 noon to 12.30 pm	Met with HE Mr Bayar Sanj, <i>Prime Minister of Mongolia</i>
12.30 pm to 1.00 pm	Met Mr Juan Somavia, <i>Director-General, International Labour Organisation</i>
2.00 pm to 2.45 pm	Met HE Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, <i>President of the Republic of Liberia</i>
3.30 pm to 4.20 pm	Met Mr Rupert Murdoch, <i>Managing-Director, News Corporation</i>
4.30 pm to 4.40 pm	Telephone discussion with Donald L Kohn, <i>Vice Chairman, Federal Reserve</i>
5.00 pm to 5.15 pm	Met with Mr James Wolfensohn AO
5.15 pm to 6.30 pm	Attended Financial Roundtable
7.05 pm to 7.25 pm	Attended commemoration for the fallen in Iraq, brief remarks from US President George W Bush and Iraqi President Jalal Talabani
8.10 pm to 8.45 pm	Met with Mr Bob Zoellick, <i>President, World Bank</i>
8.45 pm to 9.15 pm	Joint press conference with Mr Zoellick

Wednesday 24 September 2008	
7.30 am to 9.00 am	Addressed The Climate Group round table breakfast. "Political Climate change: Australia's Bold, New Vision for the Low-Carbon Economy"
9.45 am to 10.10 am	Met HE Mr Yoweri Museveni, <i>President of the Republic of Uganda</i>
10.10 am to 10.40 am	Met HE Mr Abdullah Gul, <i>President of Turkey</i>
10.45 am to 10.55 am	Ratified International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) with Patricia O'Brien, UN Legal Counsel
11.30 am to 12.10 pm	Met Dr Henry Kissinger
2.00 pm to 2.30 pm	Met HE Mr Paul Kagame, <i>President of Rwanda</i>
2.30 pm to 3.00 pm	Met the Hon Dr Lawrence Gonzi, <i>Prime Minister of Malta</i>
3.00 pm to 4.30 pm	Attended Special Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (SCHOGM) on reform of international institutions
4.30 pm to 5.00 pm	Met HE Lyonchen Jigmi Y Thinley, <i>Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan</i>
5.00 pm to 5.05 pm	Brief introduction to HE Jean Ping, <i>Chair of the African Commission, African Union</i>
5.45 pm to 6.15 pm	Met UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
7.30 pm to 8.15 pm	Attended meeting hosted by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on the global financial crisis
11.15 pm to 11.45 pm	Attended informal meeting with David Miliband, <i>Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom,</i>

Thursday 25 September 2008	
7.30 am to 8.30 am	Breakfast with Dr Vishakha Desai and Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, Asia Society
8.45 am to 10.00 am	Attended opening Session of UN High Level Event (HLE) on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
9.40 am to 10.00 am	Signed MOU with President Clinton, Clinton Global Initiative
10.30 am to 11.00 am	Attended meeting with José Manuel Barroso, <i>President of the European Commission</i>
11.00 am to 11.30 am	Attended UN MDG HLE – Thematic Roundtable on Education and Health co-chaired by Slovenia and Kuwait
12.30 pm to 1.50 pm	Attended MDG partnership event on Malaria, made joint statement with the President of Vanuatu and the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands
2.00 pm to 3.00pm	Co-chaired MDG partnership event on Education for All, with Gordon Brown, <i>Prime Minister of the United Kingdom</i>
3.15 pm to 3.50 pm	Met Mr Timothy Geithner, <i>President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York</i> with Gordon Brown, <i>Prime Minister of the United Kingdom</i>
4.05 pm to 4.40 pm	Met Taro Aso, <i>Prime Minister of Japan</i> , and attended joint media conference to launch the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND)
5.00 pm to 7.20 pm	Attended UNGA63 General Debate Discussion with Tim Costello (by phone); discussion with José Ramos Horta, President of East Timor, at Australia's seat
7.20 pm to 7.40 pm	Addressed UNGA63

(4) (a) on how many of these trips was the Minister accompanied by a business delegation; and (b) can details be provided of any delegation accompanying the Minister.

Nil.

(5) Who met the cost of travel and other expenses associated with each trip.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

(6) What was the total of the travel and associated expenses that were met by the department in relation to: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's family; (c) the Minister's staff; and (d) departmental and/or agency staff.

See 7, 8.

(7) What was the total cost, including but not necessarily limited to, fares, allowances, accommodation, hospitality, insurance and other costs, of the visit for: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's family; and (c) the Minister's staff.

As at 19 November 2008 the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) had paid costs for the following:

(i) (a) and (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$1,081.82, travel allowance \$252, incidentals \$770.58, hospitality \$39,051.68, office equipment \$5,233.65, transport \$3,026.89

(c) Airfare for advance party \$6,605.28, main party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$9,202.39, travel allowance \$2,791.62

(ii) (a) and (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$10,113.42, travel allowance \$189, incidentals \$140.97, hospitality \$5,054.93

(c) The party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$16,982.55, travel allowance \$621.68

(iii) (a), (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Travel allowance \$63, incidentals \$38.

(c) The party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Incidentals \$114

(iv) (a), (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Travel allowance \$189

(c) Airfare for advance party \$5,134.73, main party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$7,130.36, travel allowance \$2,666.87, incidentals \$907.14, immunisations \$936.76

(v) (a), (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$3,554.95, travel allowance, \$1,071, incidentals \$226.93, hospitality \$1,882.72, interpreting \$16,362.39, office expenses \$55,743.57 (this figure includes the cost of room hire and setup, equipment hire and telecommunications equipment), transport \$17,413.63

(c) Airfare for advance party \$52,244.60, main party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$102,654.08, travel allowance \$10,130.38, incidentals \$1,817.72, immunisations \$270.34

(vi) (a), (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$1,723.56, travel allowance \$441.00, transport \$31,332.20, office expenses \$65,052.53 (this figure includes the cost of room hire and setup, equipment hire and telecommunications equipment), interpreting expenses \$18,584.93, hospitality \$32,725.84, incidentals \$655.90

(c) Airfare for advance party \$10,254.16, main party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$28,173.02, travel allowance \$5,432.80, incidentals \$1,095.68

(vii)(a), (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals 54.47, travel allowance \$189.00, incidentals \$1,270.35, office expenses \$51,989.28 (this figure includes the cost of room hire and setup, equipment hire and telecommunications equipment), interpreting \$4,133.83, transport \$18,674.20

(c) Airfare for advance party \$9,842.31, main party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$21,926.47, travel allowance \$1,605.99, incidentals \$1,691.63

(viii) (a), (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$62.25, travel allowance \$378, hospitality \$2,229.18

(c) Airfare for advance party \$25,735, main party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$20,658.74, travel allowance \$3,975.20, incidentals \$3,079.91

(ix) (a), (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$231.47, travel allowance \$189, hospitality \$301.52, office expenses \$7,281.23, transport \$8,618.52

(c) Airfare for advance party \$3,365.71, main party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals \$25,540.33, travel allowance \$1,156.87

(x) (a), (b) Travel by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice). Accommodation/meals nil, incidentals \$147.28, office expenses \$14,191.19, transport \$112.95

(c) Airfare for advance party \$14,128.80, main party travelled by Special Purpose Aircraft (costs of travel by Special Purpose Aircraft will be tabled in the Parliament by the Department of Defence in accordance with established practice), airfares for four members of the Prime Minister's Office who travelled independently on commercial aircraft \$51,804.91. Accommodation/meals \$45,490.69, travel allowance \$4,949.05

(8) What was the total cost, including but not necessarily limited to, fares, allowances, accommodation, hospitality, insurance and other costs, of the visit for each departmental and/or agency officer.

(i) Airfares \$10,268.89, accommodation/meals \$8,934.56, advance office room and equipment \$4,740.70, transport \$6,643.81

(ii) Airfares \$10,820.08, accommodation/meals \$5,441.81

(iii) Nil

(iv) Airfares \$5,554.92, accommodation/meals \$7,121.36, other expenses \$1,780.28

(v) Airfares \$30,440.60, accommodation/meals \$27,712, office support costs \$9,298.63, transport \$14,034.09, other expenses \$5,700.57

(vi) Airfares \$14,332.54, accommodation/meals \$3,781.30, office accommodation and equipment \$7,979.32, transport \$16,482.93, incidentals \$2,828.89, photographic services \$20,436.17 (this figure includes post production, meals, transport and a daily fee for one Auspic officer)

(vii) Airfares \$25,458.61, accommodation/meals \$12,859.39, office accommodation and equipment \$13,922.63, incidentals \$243.30, transport \$2,527.84

(viii) Airfares \$25,390.84, accommodation/meals \$3,825.00, other expenses \$2,694.25

(ix) Airfares \$7,042.24, accommodation/meals \$3,349.52, transport \$2,244.78, office equipment \$2,808.64, office supplies \$13,172.35

(x) Airfares \$10,375.50, accommodation/meals \$11,350.48, office accommodation and equipment \$4558.56, incidentals \$3,186.36