

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010**

**Question: PM25**

**Topic: Cabinet meetings - Cost comparison**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 8 February 2010 pp78**

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**Senator FERGUSON-[...]Can you tell us the difference in the cost on average of holding a meeting outside of Canberra compared with a cabinet meeting held in Canberra or Sydney?**

**Ms Beauchamp-Not off the top of my head. I would have to take that on notice.**

**Senator FERGUSON-So, surely, in budgeting, they must have taken into account the difference in cost between holding a cabinet meeting in Canberra compared with one of the regional electorates or marginal electorates that they are held in around the country.**

**Answer:** Additional costs for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet associated with holding a Cabinet meeting outside Canberra are for travel, accommodation, and meals and incidentals for Cabinet Secretariat staff and Cabinet note takers that support the meeting, along with any freight charges for secure movement of equipment. There will also be additional security costs associated with the meeting if it is held at locations other than Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices with Australian Federal Police security. All of these costs vary according to the location of the meeting.