

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: PM39

Topic: Ministerial Travel - Spouses

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Senator CAMERON-I have one last question on this issue of costs and ministerial travel. Could you give me a breakdown of how many ministerial trips involved an accompanying spouse under this government and under the previous Liberal government?

Senator Ludwig-I can. Under the Liberals from October 2004-

Answer:

The Department of Finance and Deregulation has provided the following information.

From 3 December 2007 to 28 February 2010, there have been 376 official overseas visits undertaken by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. Forty-three (11.4 per cent) have involved an accompanying spouse.

For the period 22 October 2004 to 24 November 2007 (the last parliamentary term of the former Coalition Government), 132 (36.5 per cent) of the 362 overseas visits by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries involved an accompanying spouse.