

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: PM48a-e

Topic: COAG meetings costs

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of pages: 4

- a) What was the cost to the Federal Government for the 2 July 2009 COAG meeting held at the Darwin Convention Centre? Please provide a breakdown of costs for transport, catering, equipment, transport etc.**
- b) What was the cost to the Federal Government for the 7 December 2009 COAG meeting held at Parliament House in Brisbane? Please provide a breakdown of costs for transport, catering, equipment, transport etc.**
- c) Did the Federal Government contribute to any costs incurred by the Queensland Government for the costs of hosting the COAG meeting on 7 December 2009 at Parliament House Brisbane?**
- d) How many staff from the Prime Minister's office attended the 7 December 2009 COAG meeting and the 2 July 2009 COAG meeting and what were their roles?**
- e) Please provide a total amount, with relevant breakdowns, for the costs of each COAG meeting since the Rudd Government was elected.**

Answer:

- a)** Historically each Minister's office and department has met their own costs for attending meetings of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). As it is not centralised, information pertaining to individual offices and departments is best obtained from those relevant offices and departments. The cost to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) for the COAG meeting held in Darwin on 2 July 2009 was \$100,810.57.

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Costs in relation to catering and functions, equipment, transport and accommodation associated with staging the meeting were as follows:

- catering and functions \$28,536.03;
- equipment \$23,779.00;
- transport \$40,397.54; and
- accommodation \$8,098.00.

b) The cost to PM&C for the COAG meeting held in Brisbane on 7 December 2009 was \$75,826.37.

Costs in relation to catering and functions, equipment, transport and accommodation associated with staging the meeting were as follows:

- catering & functions \$34,362.18;
- equipment \$11,834.98;
- transport \$23,650.21; and
- accommodation \$5,997.00.

c) Following the October 2008 COAG meeting in Perth, the Commonwealth has met the costs of staging COAG meetings both in Canberra and at interstate venues, with the host jurisdiction having responsibility for bearing the costs of the Leaders and Senior Officials dinners held the night before the COAG meeting. Each jurisdiction has been responsible for its respective travel and accommodation costs.

Consistent with this approach, a contractual arrangement was entered into between the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Queensland Parliamentary

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Service for the staging of the December 2009 COAG meeting which covered staffing (including weekend setup), room and equipment hire, catering and other associated services. These costs totalled \$34,388.38.

d) Twelve staff from the Prime Minister's Office attended the COAG meeting in Brisbane on 7 December 2009. The delegation comprised of the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, the Deputy Chief of Staff, five Advisers, two Media Advisers, two administrative staff and an Advancer.

Thirteen staff from the Prime Minister's Office attended the COAG meeting in Darwin on 2 July 2009. The delegation comprised of the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, six Advisers, two Media Advisers, three administrative staff and an Advancer.

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e) The numbers below represent the estimated costs to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for each of the COAG meetings held since the Rudd Government was elected.

	Catering, functions, equip	Ground transport	Accom/meals/ incidentals	Airfares	Total
Melbourne 20 December 2007	52.10	12,342.76*	3,788.84*	5,648.38*	21,832.08*
Adelaide 26 March 2008	0.00	8,851.78*	1,739.69*	12,583.85*	23,175.32*
Sydney 3 July 2008	0.00	9,747.69*	3,562.90*	3,871.10*	17,181.69*
Perth 2 October 2008	0.00	8,971.73*	8,383.01*	18,226.10*	35,580.84*
Canberra** 29 November 2008	18,110.84	9,669.05*	0.00	0.00	27,779.89*
Canberra 5 February 2009	8,284.00	10,055.00*	0.00	0.00	18,339.00*
Hobart 30 April 2009	48,260.00	12,463.00*	2,016.00*	4,683.00*	67,422.00*
Darwin 2 July 2009	52,315.03	9,341.40	8,098.00	31,056.14	100,810.57
Brisbane 7 December 2009	46,197.16	9,859.27	5,997.00	13,790.94	75,826.37

* Costs prior to the 2 July 2009 COAG meeting in Darwin are those incurred by the departmental Executive, the COAG Unit and the Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch.

** Following the October 2008 COAG meeting in Perth, the Commonwealth has met the costs of staging COAG meetings both in Canberra and at interstate venues (refer part c).