

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Ministerial overseas travel

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 57

Type of Question: FPA, P88, 13 February

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator RYAN: Could you take on notice the number of approvals for travel overseas by cabinet ministers and if there have been any refusals of requests to travel overseas? I appreciate we are straining for time so I am happy for you to take that on notice.

Ms Leon: The question was the number of?

Senator RYAN: The number of times cabinet ministers have been refused permission to travel overseas.

Ms Leon: I can give you the number of trips by financial year that have occurred. It is not broken down by minister.

Senator RYAN: It is probably best to take it on notice as I am particularly interested in the figures by minister. I appreciate that is not information readily available.

Answer:

The attached table lists the number of visits completed by Cabinet ministers from 14 September 2010 to 13 February 2012.

Ministers are required to seek in-principle approval from the Prime Minister for proposed overseas travel. This process allows the Prime Minister to consider the overall forward program of travel for Ministers, including where there might be overlapping travel proposals. As part of this process during the period January 2011 to 31 March 2012, 11 Cabinet ministers were not given in-principle approval for travel (table also attached), and four Cabinet ministers were given partial in-principle approval.

**Number of overseas visits completed by Cabinet Ministers
from 14 September 2010 to 13 February 2012**

Cabinet Ministers	No. of completed visits
The Hon Wayne Swan MP	12
The Hon Simon Crean MP	1
Senator the Hon Chris Evans	4
The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP	1
Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy	8
The Hon Kevin Rudd MP	26
The Hon Dr Craig Emerson MP	15
The Hon Stephen Smith MP	16
The Hon Chris Bowen MP	7
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP	7
The Hon Nicola Roxon MP	3
The Hon Jenny Macklin MP	2
The Hon Tony Burke MP	2
Senator the Hon Kim Carr	6
The Hon Robert McClelland MP	6
Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig	4
The Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP	11
The Hon Greg Combet AM MP	3
The Hon Bill Shorten MP	1
Total	135