

# 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:** 1.1.3 Strategic Policy and Implementation

**Topic:** Community Cabinets

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 92

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?
2. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel?
3. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses.
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

- 1+2. As previously advised, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has no involvement in the travel arrangements for attending ministers or their accompanying advisers. Meeting attendance costs for attending ministers and their accompanying advisers were met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) and questions on this matter should be directed to that department.
3. PM&C sent one senior departmental officer to accompany the Prime Minister to each meeting in addition to the separate team of officials who were for responsible running the event. A table of travel costs for the senior departmental officer accompanying the Prime Minister is below.

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Senior Departmental Officer Travel Costs

Meeting Location/Date	Travel costs *
Yeronga Qld 1/9/2011	\$1,664
Kingston Tas 3/10/2011 <i>Arranged own accommodation</i>	\$1,765
Werribee Vic 9/11/2011 <i>Arranged own accommodation</i>	\$468

\* *Cost of flights, accommodation, and taxis*

4. Three meetings have been held in this FYTD: Yeronga Queensland, Kingston Tasmania and Werribee Victoria. The total cost to PM&C to stage the meetings this FYTD is \$248,318. This is based on available invoices.

As previously advised, PM&C has no involvement in the travel arrangements for attending ministers and their accompanying advisers or accompanying officials from other departments. Meeting attendance costs for other attending ministers and their accompanying advisers were met by Finance and attendance costs for departmental officers from other departments were met by the relevant department. Questions on this matter should be directed to the relevant department.