

Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee:
Answers to written Questions on Notice Additional Estimates 2012-13
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio

Department: Parliamentary Budget Office

Topic: Travel costs

Senator: Senator Scott Ryan

Question reference number: 81

Type of question: Written

Question

- a) For the financial year to date, please detail travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
- b) For the financial year to date, please detail travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- c) What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- d) What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- e) Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is the department/agency following the advice? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
- f) Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
- g) When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.
- h) Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer

- a) Not applicable.

b) For the period to 31 January 2013 the following travel was undertaken:

In January 2013, the First Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Budget Analysis Division, attended the Committee on Fiscal Affairs and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - International Monetary Fund (IMF) conference on 'Fiscal Policy for Greener Growth'.

The total cost for this travel was \$9,902.13, comprising \$8,346.52 for an international flight, \$1,205.84 for accommodation, \$147.14 for transport, and \$202.63 for meals and incidentals.

In February 2013, the Parliamentary Budget Officer attended the 5th Annual Meeting of OECD Parliamentary Budget Officials and Independent Fiscal Institutions in Ottawa, Canada.

The total cost for this travel was \$11,524.01, comprising \$10,548.74 for an international flight, \$689.74 for accommodation, \$17.60 for transport, and \$267.94 for meals and incidentals.

- c) The First Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Budget Analysis Division is the Chair of an OECD working party and will travel to Paris for meetings of the working party on 21-24 May 2013. The meetings concerned are OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs, Working Party 2 (WP2) on Tax Policy and Statistics (21-23 May) and for the Joint Committee of Tax and Environment Experts (JCTEE) 24 May.
- d) In addition to the meeting to the meetings listed at (c), the First Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Budget Analysis Division will travel to Paris for meetings of WP2 and the JCTEE in November 2013 (meeting dates to be confirmed).
- e) Yes. The Parliamentary Budget Office complies with travel policies and guidelines issued by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Monitoring is in accordance with these guidelines.
- f) To date, no lounge memberships have been provided to staff of the Parliamentary Budget Office.
- g) No.
- h) No.