

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio
Department of Climate Change
Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2008



Written question reference: CC6

Outcome/Output: Response to climate change if relevant

Topic: The costs of Departmental officers travel to UNFCCC COP 13

Hansard Page: Not relevant for written QoN

Question: (JOHNSTON)

When I look at an airfare of \$4,000 for the ordinary officers and I now find out they flew Jetstar, I find that even more incongruous...It just does not fit to me that there would be a \$4,000 average for 18 staff members.... Mr Secretary, can we have any further break-up of how these fares panned out? Can you tell me what the booking costs were for the airfare if the time schedule had been met and what we ended up paying?

Answer:

The average cost for a direct, return airfare, where officers were able to book well in advance, and where no subsequent alterations were required, was approximately \$3,000. Other fares varied depending on the date the fare was booked, the availability of direct routes, and the need to change travel arrangements at late notice.

The information required in order to compare all fares as originally booked and as actually travelled is not readily available. Compiling this information would require considerable resources and would involve coordination across a number of Departments and travel providers.