

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Outcome 3, Program 3.1**

**Topic: Overseas Travel**

**Question reference number: F48**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA page 8, 10 May 2009**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator Ronaldson asked:**

Do you think it is reasonable for six ministerial staff to fly first class from London to Australia?

**Answer:**

For official overseas travel, the Prime Minister may approve a Minister to be accompanied by one or more *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* employees.

The class of travel for accompanying employees is provided for in the *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Collective Agreement 2006-2009 Guidelines* (CA Guidelines) and the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 Senior Staff Guidelines* (Senior Staff Guidelines).

The CA Guidelines provide that *An Employee of a Minister may travel at the same class of travel as the employing Minister where travel is on the same scheduled commercial service.*

The Senior Staff Guidelines provide that *Travel is at the same class as a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary when the Employee accompanies the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary on the same service. Travel is no higher than business class in all other circumstances.*