

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 3 Program 3.1

Topic: Parliamentarian's Travel

Question reference number: F126

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 September 2010

Number of Pages: 1

Senator XENOPHON asked:

1. The Government has stated it will save \$160 million on parliamentarians' travel over the next four years. Can the department itemise the expected savings?
2. What reviews will the department undertake to ensure the savings target is on track over the next four years?
3. Did the Department consider allowing only economy class travel instead of business class travel on trips of two hours or less? Does the department have any figures on how much this move would have saved?

Answer:

1. The \$160 million savings that you have identified relate to the Australian Public Service, Parliamentarians and their staff. Of the total saving, \$33.2 million relates to Parliamentarians and their staff. The savings have been obtained through unit price reductions for domestic and international air fares resulting from the coordinated procurement arrangement.
2. Agencies have agreed and returned savings to the Budget commencing in the 2010-11 financial year. Regular reporting of travel at a whole-of-government level is part of the ongoing management of the contract.
3. The coordinated procurement focus is on unit prices, not changes to entitlements or business processes. There has been no calculation of such a change.