

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 - Support services for government operations
Topic: Travel Costs

Senator: Fifield

Question reference number: 146

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 4

Question:

- 1. For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include what sum was spent on travel, accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.**
- 2. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.**
- 3. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.**

Answer:

1. The costs of official travel by ministers, parliamentary secretaries and any accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) are met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). Detailed information regarding Parliamentary entitlements expenditure, including ministers' and parliamentary secretaries' overseas and domestic travel entitlements is tabled in the Parliament every six months and published on the Finance website. The report also includes car transport costs for ministers and parliamentary secretaries met by their home departments.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet:

- did not incur any security costs for travel by the Prime Minister or other portfolio ministers;
- incurred costs of \$2,024 (GST inclusive) for entertainment for official functions hosted by the Prime Minister from 1 July 2010 to 24 May 2011; and
- incurred costs of \$18,240 (GST inclusive) for gifts presented by the Prime Minister during her official overseas visits from 1 July 2010 to 24 May 2011.

2. The costs associated with staff accompanying ministers and parliamentary secretaries on overseas travel are met from the relevant minister or parliamentary secretary's overseas travel entitlements and are included at an aggregate level by Senator or Member in the report referred to in part 1). Domestic travel costs for MOP(S) Act employees, including staff accompanying ministers and parliamentary secretaries on domestic travel, is included at an aggregate level in the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act Annual Report* which is tabled in the Parliament and published on the Finance website.
3. See attached.

The travel costs of departmental officers accompanying the Prime Minister and other portfolio ministers are as follows:

Purpose of Trip	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to United Arab Emirates; Afghanistan; Switzerland; Belgium	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to Vietnam; Malaysia; Indonesia	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to Republic of Korea; Japan	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to Portugal	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to New Zealand
Minister accompanied	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister
Travel	\$15,966	\$25,647	\$22,922	\$8,432	\$1,727
Accommodation/food/beverages	\$13,329	\$10,152	\$21,599	\$8,889	\$2,738
Security/gifts/entertainment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other expenses	\$362	\$168	\$102	\$94	\$94
Total	\$29,658	\$35,969	\$44,624	\$17,415	\$4,559

Purpose of Trip	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to the United States of America	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to New Zealand	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to Japan; Republic of Korea; China; United Kingdom	Trip to Zurich for World Cup Bid announcement	Trip to Delhi for the Commonwealth Games*
Minister accompanied	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Minister for Sport	Minister for Sport
Travel	\$7,972	\$1,370	\$24,943	\$10,851	\$5,566
Accommodation food/beverages	\$23,192	\$337	\$16,246	\$1,078	\$1,775
Security/gifts/entertainment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other expenses	149	\$47	\$110	\$0	\$0
Total	\$31,314	\$1,754	\$41,300	\$11,929	\$7,622

* The cost of this travel was met by the Department of Health and Ageing, as the Senior Officer was still an employee of the Department prior to the implementation of machinery of government changes.