

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 113

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 3

Question:

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all 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).

2. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).

3. 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?

4. How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.

Answer:

1. For the financial year to date the total cost of airfares, accommodation, meals and other expenses for Departmental officers who accompanied the Prime Minister is \$126,926 (GST exclusive). A breakdown of costs is provided at Attachment A.

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2. For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 April 2012, total travel and accommodation costs for the department from departmental funds were \$2,639,270 (GST exclusive) for travel and \$2,409,986 (GST exclusive) for accommodation. These costs include travel and accommodation expenses associated with management of the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow further breakdown of these figures. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

3. Yes.

4. The department receives a quarterly report from the travel provider which is reviewed by the Chief Financial Officer.

* Travel costs for the Arts and Sports Group and National Mental Health Commission have not been included in this response. They will be answered separately by the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport and the National Mental Health Commission respectively.

Attachment A

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

Purpose of Trip	Advance, coordinate and accompany the PM's visit to NZ 6-8 Sept 2011	Advance, coordinate and accompany the PM's visit to France and Afghanistan 1-8 Nov 2011	Advance, coordinate and accompany the PM's visit to USA 11-15 Nov 2011	Advance, coordinate and accompany the PM's visit to Indonesia 18-20 Nov 2011	Advance, coordinate and accompany the PM's visit to Korea 25-28 March 2012	Advance, coordinate and accompany the PM's visit to Singapore and Turkey 22-27 April 12
Minister accompanied	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister
Airfares	1,532	23,180	11,046	4,779	12,096	12,283
Accommodation/ food/beverages/ incidentals	7,523	12,471	6,028	11,342	10,507	7,441
Travel – taxis, car hire etc	729	1,151	673	102	372	248
Other expenses	47	817	357	1,420	66	716
Total	9,831	37,619	18,104	17,643	23,041	20,688