

**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:** Community Cabinet Meetings

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 89

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 3

**Question:**

1. What was the cost of Ministers and travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?
2. How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended? List date and location.
3. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Ministerial Staff attend? List date and location.
4. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.
5. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

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**Answer:**

1. Please refer to the previous response provided in PM92 from Additional Estimates 13-16 February 2012. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has no involvement in the travel arrangements for attending ministers. Meeting attendance costs for ministers were met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) and questions on this matter should be directed to that department.
2. The Prime Minister has attended all Community Cabinet meetings held in 2011-12. Meetings have been held at:
  - a. Yeronga Qld 1 September 2011
  - b. Kingston Tas 3 October 2011
  - c. Werribee Vic 9 November 2011
  - d. Parramatta NSW 4 April 2012, and
  - e. Berwick Vic 16 May 2012.
3. Please refer to the previous response provided in PM92 from Additional Estimates 13-16 February 2012. PM&C has no involvement in the travel arrangements for ministerial advisers. Meeting attendance costs for ministerial advisers were met by Finance and questions on this matter should be directed to that department.
4. PM&C sent one senior departmental officer to accompany the Prime Minister to each meeting in addition to the separate team of officials who were responsible for running the event. A table of travel costs for the senior departmental officer accompanying the Prime Minister is below.

Senior Departmental Officer Travel Costs

Meeting Location/Date	Travel costs *
Yeronga Qld 1/9/2011	\$1,664
Kingston Tas 3/10/2011 <i>Arranged own accommodation</i>	\$1,765
Werribee Vic 9/11/2011 <i>Arranged own accommodation</i>	\$468

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## Senior Departmental Officer Travel Costs cont'd

Parramatta NSW 4/4/2012	\$1,074
Berwick Vic 16/5/2012	\$546

*\* Cost of flights, accommodation, and taxis*

5. Five meetings have been held in this financial year to date. The total cost to PM&C to stage the meetings this financial year to date is \$381,130. This is based on available invoices.