

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

**Department of Finance and Administration**

Supplementary Estimates 2002-2003 – 20 November 2002

**Question: F62**

**Outcome 3, Output 3.1**

**Topic: Electorate Staff Travel Budget**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 83**

**Senator Ray asked:**

I do not think it should be. I have a question that I have to preface by saying that I have noticed you have increased the relief staff budget and I have also noticed some of the other enhancements you made prior to the last federal election which were outlined in a letter to us. The one area that never seems to be looked at and that is starting to cause pressure here, especially in this financial year, is the staff travel budget. Most of us handed half of it back, as you know, and that is fine, that is good. Is it intended to review this again? I know it is normally said, 'Back in 1991, it was set at so and so,' but things change. Parliament is going to go through a very intense sitting period this financial year, one of the more intense ones, and I am wondering if it is possible for you to look at that travel budget to see whether it can be made just a little more accommodating?

**Answer:**

As advised to the Committee by the Special Minister of State at the hearing on 20 November 2002 (Hansard page F&PA 83) the Minister is willing to consider this issue. Advice on this issue is currently being prepared for the Minister's consideration.