

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

**Department of Finance and Administration**

November Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 4 November 2003

**Question: 29A**

**Outcome: 1 Sustainable Government Finances, Output: 1.2 Financial Management**

**Topic: Departmental Travel on Airlines other than Qantas**

**Hansard page: N/A**

**Written Question on Notice: Tuesday, 4 November 2003**

**Senator Forshaw asked:**

Can the Department report the level at which government departments' air travel is undertaken using Virgin Blue and Regional Express – currently, in the last 6 and 12 months.

**Answer:**

In July 2003, the Government announced that the Australian Government would work towards the objective of 10 percent of government travel on the Canberra-Sydney route going to smaller airlines and that departments and agencies would be required to report regularly to the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on their performance against the objective.

Data has been collected since July to enable performance against the Government's objective to be measured. Data on the use of smaller airlines across all domestic sectors has also been collected for comparison purposes, as has data on the use of smaller airlines for the period January to June 2003. The data for January to June 2003 only identified use of smaller airlines on all domestic sectors. No data has been collected for the period before January 2003.

The aggregate data for the months January to October is set out in the table below.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Per cent of Total Domestic Sectors undertaken on smaller airlines</b>	<b>Per cent of Canberra/Sydney Sectors undertaken on smaller airlines</b>
January	5.0%	n/a
February	3.0%	n/a
March	3.0%	n/a
April	4.0%	n/a
May	3.0%	n/a
June	5.0%	n/a
July	7.9%	11.9%
August	6.9%	15.3%
September	6.7%	15.6%
October	5.7%	15.4%

*n/a – not available*

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Data for the period July to October 2003 detailing use by the main smaller airlines is set out in the table below.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Smaller Airline</b>	<b>Per cent of Total Domestic Sectors undertaken on smaller airlines</b>	<b>Per cent of Canberra/Sydney Sectors undertaken on smaller airlines</b>
July	Regional Express	2.2%	11.4%
	Virgin Blue	0.4%	0.5%
	Other	5.4%	0.0%
	<b>Total Smaller Airlines</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>
August	Regional Express	2.9%	14.7%
	Virgin Blue	0.4%	0.5%
	Other	3.6%	0.1%
	<b>Total Smaller Airlines</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
September	Regional Express	2.7%	15.2%
	Virgin Blue	0.4%	0.3%
	Other	3.6%	0.0%
	<b>Total Smaller Airlines</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>15.6%</b>
October	Regional Express	2.8%	14.7%
	Virgin Blue	0.7%	0.6%
	Other	2.3%	0.1%
	<b>Total Smaller Airlines</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>

**Date:** 1 December 03

**Cleared by (SES):** Ian McPhee

**Group/Branch:** FMG/Procurement Branch

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