

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2006

Question: F18

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Electorate Staff Travel Budget

Hansard page: F&PA 42

Senator Parry asked:

I want to talk about the formula for calculating staff travel allowances—that is, for electorate staff—from their home base to Canberra. What is the basis of the calculation; how is that calculated and what is the formula used?

Answer:

In accordance with Determination 2006/12 signed by the Special Minister of State under the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 1984*, the Electorate Staff Travel Budget is calculated at the commencement of each financial year on the basis of:

- 18 return economy airfares between the electorate and Canberra;
- 100 days Travelling Allowance at the rate applicable to Canberra;
- Taxi fares and/or Motor Vehicle Allowance to and from the relevant airports for the 18 flights above; and
- A component for intra-electorate travel as follows:

Senator or Member	Electorate Size	Amount
Member	0-199 km ²	\$300
Member	200-999 km ²	\$500
Member	1,000-9,999 km ²	\$700
Member	10,000-99,999 km ²	\$1,000
Member	100,000-199,999 km ²	\$5,000
Member	200,000-499,999 km ²	\$7,000
Member	500,000 km ² or greater	\$9,000
Senator	All except Northern Territory	\$500
Senator	Northern Territory	\$9,000

The Electorate Staff Travel Budget is calculated pro rata, on the basis of the number of calendar days remaining, for the financial year in which a Senator is appointed or a Member commences his or her term or where the Electorate staff of a Senator or Member become the subject of the Electorate Staff Travel Budget during a financial year.