

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings 2006-2007, 30 October 2006

Question: PM 46

Outcome 1, Output 4.7

Topic: Prime Minister's overseas visits

Direct on Notice:

Senator Evans asked: 1. Please provide details of the cost to the taxpayer of the Prime Ministerial visits to India in March, and to the US, Canada and Ireland in May, including the total cost of the visit and broken down by travel costs, accommodation, other transport, meals/drinks and incidentals and the number of people in the party by whom the costs were incurred.

2. Please provide details of the costs of any overseas travel by the Prime Minister since May including the destination, date and purpose of the visit, the total cost of the visit and that cost broken down by travel, accommodation (please identify hotels), other transport, meals/drinks and incidentals and the number of people in the party by whom the costs were incurred.

Answer:

The Department of Finance and Administration pay for costs incurred by the Prime Minister. Attached are the costs on a visit by visit basis for the staff of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

All costs quoted are as at 22 November 2006.

Destination: India

Date: 5 to 9 March 2006

Purpose of visit: To raise the profile of Australia's relationship with an emerging regional power, including through organising a high-level business delegation to promote commercial interests.

COSTS

Travel	\$106,955.85 (this figure includes the cost of a charter aircraft between New Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai)
Accommodation	\$8,074.96
Other transport	\$1,718.30
Meals/drinks/incidentals	\$2,164.68
Number in the party:	4

Destination: United States of America, Canada, Ireland

Date: 12 to 25 May 2006

Purpose of visit: USA – To meet President Bush and other key members of his Administration to discuss bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and to deliver a major address to the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations. **Canada** – To engage in discussions with Prime Minister Harper on the bilateral relationship; advance bilateral political, trade and investment ties; and address a joint session of the Canadian Parliament. **Ireland** - To build on an historically close bilateral relationship and pursue mutual interests in expanding trade and investment and practical cooperation in areas such as research and development, information technology and education.

COSTS

Travel	\$35,830.56
Accommodation	\$31,470.64
Other transport	\$515.52
Meals/drinks/incidentals	\$16,392.79
Number in the party:	5

Destination: Republic of Indonesia and People's Republic of China

Date: 25 to 29 June 2006

Purpose of visit: **Indonesia** – To meet President Yudhoyono to discuss the bilateral relationship. **China** – To witness the first commercial deliveries of North West Shelf LNG to Shenzhen, worth \$25 billion over 25 years.

COSTS

Travel	\$26,154.31
Accommodation	\$6,371.92 Batam View Beach Resort, Indonesia Wuzhou Guest House, China
Other transport	\$1,373.01
Meals/drinks/incidentals	\$791.79
Number in the party:	6

Destination: Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Date: 18 July 2006

Purpose of visit: To visit Australian personnel and to engage in discussions with East Timor Prime Minister Ramos-Horta on Australia's deployment to East Timor.

COSTS

Travel \$2,767.81

Accommodation \$2,104.50

Other transport \$411.70

Meals/drinks/incidentals \$114.50

Number in the party: 1

Destination: Republic of the Fiji Islands

Date: 23 to 25 October 2006

Purpose of visit: Pacific Island Forum

COSTS

Travel	\$5,438.54
Accommodation	\$9,086.92 Sheraton Fiji Resort, Denarau Island South
Other transport	\$674.68
Meals/drinks/incidentals	\$1,130.35
Number in the party	4