

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009**  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Topic: Costs associated with travel by the Secretary of the Department of Climate Change to Abu Dhabi**

**Question reference numbers: CC1a-d**

**Type of Question: *Written***

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Question:** (Senator Bernardi)

At the Estimates hearings on 19 October, the Secretary of the Department mentioned that his stay at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi was paid for by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Federal Government, and not by the Australian Government. Even though it wasn't paid for by the Australian Government, there should be some record of the following:

- a) What was the accommodation cost of the Secretary's stay in the Emirates Palace?
- b) What was the cost of any incidentals associated with this stay (eg food, beverages, all other incidentals)?
- c) Did the UAE Federal Government pay for the incidentals?
- d) What was the total cost of the Secretary's stay at the Emirates Palace?

**Answers:**

- a) The Secretary stayed at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi from 22-24 March 2009 at the invitation of the Lowy Institute to attend the inaugural Australia – UAE Dialogue which was sponsored by the UAE and Australian Governments. The Department of Climate Change did not incur any costs associated with the Secretary's stay at the Emirates Palace, including for accommodation. The cost of accommodation was not provided to the Secretary or the Department of Climate Change.
- b) The Department of Climate Change did not incur any costs associated with the Secretary's stay at the Emirates Palace, including for incidentals (eg food, beverages and other incidentals). The cost of incidentals were not provided to the Secretary or the Department of Climate Change.
- c) The UAE Federal Government paid for the incidental costs incurred by the Secretary at the Emirates Palace for the Australia – UAE Dialogue from 22-24 March 2009.
- d) Please refer to parts (a) and (b) above.