

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 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM73

Asked By: Senator Payne

Topic: COAG - Cost of the April 2010 meeting

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of pages:

In relation to the total cost of the April 2010 COAG meeting (PM27, Budget Estimates):

- a) Please provide a breakdown of the catering and functions, equipment hire and ground transport components of the \$81,886.56 total cost of staging the meeting.**
- b) Why was this meeting three times the cost of the next most expensive Canberra-based meeting held in the past three years when the meeting lasted for only one extra day?**

Answer:

- a) Costs relating to catering and functions, equipment hire and ground transport associated with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 19 and 20 April 2010 at Parliament House in Canberra were as follows:

Catering and functions	\$37,268.29
Equipment hire	\$9,817.83
Ground transport	\$35,708.35
Total	\$82,794.47

This breakdown reflects additional invoices, totalling \$907.91, that have been received since our previous response (as per PM27, Budget Estimates 2010).

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 18-21 October 2010

- b) The subject matter for the meeting, its location and the nature of the negotiations meant that a larger number of Commonwealth, State and Territory advisers attended than meetings previously held at interstate venues.

Costs reflect supplementary expenses owing to these additional attendees, the provision of food that would not usually be required at a one-day COAG meeting and added transport and hospitality requirements of First Ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association.

The ground transport costs were incurred in transporting COAG members from interstate, and those travelling with them, to and from Canberra Airport, transporting COAG members to and from the Lodge and Parliament House, as well as those accompanying them to the meeting.