

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Output Group: 1.1

Topic: Travel costs

Senator: Abetz

Question reference number: PM 131

- a) The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed a whole-of-government coordinated procurement arrangements for travel and related services. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies? Please explain the changes that have occurred to your department and portfolio agencies in relation to its travel and related services.
- b) Is purchasing of travel and related services less expensive under the new arrangements?
- c) Is purchasing of travel and related services more efficient under the new arrangements?
- d) Have savings been achieved in your portfolio because of the new arrangements?
- e) How much did your department and portfolio agencies spend on travel in 2008-09, 2009-10 and to date this financial year.
- f) How have staff within your department and portfolio agencies found the new arrangements? For example is it more efficient to arrange travel?

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: Two

Answer:

- a) The Commission is operating within the interim whole of government travel and related services arrangements having maintained its pre-existing travel management company arrangements. The Commission joined the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Travel Cluster ahead of an approach to the panel of travel service providers in the first half of 2011 to establish ongoing travel management company arrangements.
- b) Yes. There are savings that are available from the whole of government travel arrangements.
- c) Yes. There is an opportunity to increase the use of on-line bookings to reduce the booking fee and time taken to identify and book the lowest practice fare.

- d) Yes. As a small agency the Commission would not as a result of an approach to market on its own have been offered the travel management company and airlines prices / rates that are available from the whole of government travel arrangements.
- e) The Commission spend on travel excluding GST in 2008-09 was \$1.062 million; 2009-10 \$0.926 million, and in 2010-11 to 31 October is \$0.524 million.
- f) The Commission has not received any adverse reaction to the new arrangements.