

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 2/ 2.1

Topic: Travel – Lowest Practical Fare

Senator: Xenophon

Question reference number: F27

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

In response to another question on notice, the department stated that there has been no auditing program to consider the level of compliance with the ‘lowest possible fare’ policy, and that ensuring compliance with this policy is the responsibility of the Chief Executive of each agency.

- a) The policy states that: “in all situations where official air travel is undertaken, a reason why any fare is selected which is outside the scope of being the lowest practical fare, must be documented”. Is the documentation therefore the responsibility of the chief executive?
- b) Where are these flights documented?
- c) Are they reported to any higher authority or is it enough that they are documented somewhere?

Answer:

- a) The traveller and approving delegate are responsible for ensuring documentation to support official air travel. Under the devolved financial framework, the specific reporting arrangements are matters for each department and agency.
- b) Under the devolved financial framework, specific documentation requirements differ between departments and agencies.
- c) The mechanism by which compliance with the Lowest Practical Fare is reported is a responsibility of departments and agencies.