

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

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance and Deregulation

**Outcome/Program:** General

**Topic:** Travel savings

**Senator:** Xenophon

**Question reference number:** F59

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 2 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

In response to another question on notice, the department stated that between 1 July 2010 and 31 May 2011, 75.03 percent of flights taken by current parliamentarians were business class on Qantas.

- a) Are any figures available for staff or departmental officers, etc?
- b) If so, can the department indicate what percentage of these staff flew Qantas, and what percentage flew business class?
- c) Would it be fair to say that most parliamentarians tend to travel by Qantas because they are entitled to business class, rather than because they are using the lowest possible fare?
- d) Has there been any change in this since the cancellation of the frequent flyer program?

**Answer:**

- a) Yes.
- b) 87.43 percent of flights taken by Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 employees were with Qantas. 21.31 percent of those were at business class. 74 per cent of all flight segments for official travel undertaken by all departmental staff were with Qantas, of which 11 per cent were in business class.
- c) The Department is unable to comment on Parliamentarians' motivations in flying with a particular airline.
- d) There has been a small decrease in the percentage of Qantas flights flown at business class since the introduction of the whole of government travel arrangements.