

**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 Savings

**Senator:** Xenophon

**Question reference number:** F26

**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 questions I placed on notice last estimates, the Department stated that the amount saved by cancelling the frequent flyer program is \$160 million during 2010-2014.

- a) Can the department indicate whether this savings target is on track?
- b) How much has actually been saved since the cancellation?

**Answer:**

- a) The \$160 million savings has been returned to the Budget over the four financial years commencing 2010-11. This action was taken in the 2010-11 Budget process through adjustments to agencies' allocations.
- b) It is not possible to be specific about the level of savings retained by agencies because travel patterns change over time to reflect operational needs. However, analysis of the top 30 most travelled domestic routes indicate, that on average, prices paid have reduced by about 30 per cent in 2010-11. This is an indication that agencies are retaining benefits.