

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Question: 174

Topic: Travel Costs - Departmental Staff - 2010-11

Asked By: Senator RYAN

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

Answer:

The Department does not record travel expenditure in a way that would allow answers to be provided to these questions without an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

All travel undertaken by the Department relates to: delivering policies and programs across regional Australia; managing the Australian Government's interest in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory and Norfolk Island; and administering non self-governing Territories of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Coral Sea Islands and Jervis Bay Territory. Travel is undertaken to assess and evaluate the impacts of policies and programs in the regions and build on community strengths to better target government programs. The Department plays a key role in building relationships and engaging with Australia's regions and communities through the Regional Development Australia network across the country and liaising with local councils. The Department is also responsible for a range of grants and programs including the funding and management of infrastructure projects across the country and oversight of

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the Australian Government's contribution to reconstruction efforts recovering from natural disasters.

A summary of expenses by travel category is provided below:

| FINANCIAL YEAR 2010 – 2011 (1 October 2010 – 30 June 2011) | |
|--|---------------------|
| Airfares – domestic tickets and luggage fees | \$291,798.58 |
| Accommodation | \$112,087.73 |
| Car Hire and Taxi Fares | \$74,603.54 |
| Travel - Other | \$5,879.69 |
| Travel – Meals – personal meals for employees | \$29,018.80 |
| Travel – out of pocket expenses – public transport fares, parking and other reasonable minor purchases | \$12,938.54 |