

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: 65

Topic: Travel Allowance

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 3

Can you table the paper outlining travel allowance mentioned in the minutes of the meeting of 20 June 2011?

Answer:

The paper outlining travel allowances for Reconstruction Inspectorate members is based on advice from the Remuneration Tribunal. The Remuneration Tribunal determined on 13 April 2011 that Inspectorate members are entitled to Tier One travel entitlements, effective from 7 February 2011. Mr Tune's travel expenses are paid by his Department.

(Paper attached)



Travel Allowance Information Sheet

The following guidelines apply to your remuneration as an Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate office holder. They are in accordance with the *Determination 2004/03: Official Travel by Office Holders* (the Determination) set by the Remuneration Tribunal.

As a Tier 1 office holder, you are entitled to travel at the highest available class within Australia and First/Business class when travelling overseas.

If you receive a travel allowance from another Australian Government source/entitlement, no payment of travelling allowance/expenses will be made under these guidelines.

Day Travel for Reconstruction Inspectorate Business

Travel allowance is only payable where an overnight stay is required. For day trips the cost of transport is paid only.

Overnight Absences for Reconstruction Inspectorate Business

Where you are required to be away from your office locality or home base overnight, travel allowance will be payable to you. The rate of travel allowance differs depending on how you travel and where you travel to. This information note describes your entitlements as Tier 1 office holders for the Inspectorate.

When travelling to a capital city you are entitled to the following rates to cover accommodation, meals and incidentals per overnight absence:

Capital City	Rate (per overnight absence)
Canberra	\$385
Sydney	\$420
Brisbane	\$391
Melbourne	\$420

When travelling to any regional centre throughout Queensland, Victoria or New South Wales you will be entitled to \$345 per overnight absence.

Where the cost of accommodation is unavoidably high due to factors such as a lack of suitable options in the area or the remoteness of the location, an additional amount may be payable to you based on the excess the rate otherwise payable.

If you elect to stay with a family member or in any private non-commercial accommodation, one-third of the usual travel allowance is the total amount payable.



Australian Government
Reconstruction Inspectorate

Entitlements where accommodation has been paid

Where the Australian Government pays for your accommodation, the following rates are payable to you for meals and incidentals:

	Rate (at both high cost centre and country centres)
Breakfast	\$27
Lunch	\$28
Dinner	\$65
Incidentals	\$25
Total	\$155

Where the cost of one or more meals is met by someone other than you, the amount of travel allowance payable is decreased by the relevant meal amount.

Accompanied Travel

Where it can be demonstrated to be in the interest of the Australian Government for your spouse to travel with you, they may do so at the same class of travel as you.

Airline Reward Schemes

Under the Determination, airline reward points accrued at the Australian Government's expense, including points earned on expenses reimbursed by the Australian Government, should not be used for private purposes.

Vehicles

Should you choose to hire a vehicle or use your own car, and it can be demonstrated to be in the Australian Government's interest for you to do so, the rental or vehicle costs per kilometre will be payable at a rate determined by the vehicle engine capacity.

Travelling to and from the airport by taxi

When travelling to and from the airport, the Department of Regional Australia Regional Development and Local Government will pay for all taxi fares.