

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 15 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Travel Costs 2011-12

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 115

Type of Question: written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. For 2011-12, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. For 2011-12, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).

Answer:

1. Travel costs for 1 July 2011 to 30 April 2012 were reported in 2012 Senate Budget Estimates QON 113. Staff from the Department undertake travel in advance of advance and accompany the Prime Minister to coordinate arrangements for the Prime Minister's overseas visits. During May and June 2012 the visits involved were the visit to Chicago, USA from 19-23 May 2012 and Mexico and Brazil from 17-24 June 2012. Staff rarely accompany the Prime Minister or Portfolio Ministers on their travel for domestic events. The Department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow such data to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
2. For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, total travel and accommodation costs for the Department from departmental funds were \$3,099,797.88 (GST exclusive) for travel and \$2,592,605.50 (GST exclusive) for accommodation. These costs include travel and accommodation expenses associated with management of the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The Department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow further breakdown of these figures. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

