

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Australian Public Service Commission

**Outcome/Program:** Cross Portfolio

**Topic:** Travel Costs 2011-12

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** 115

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**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).
3. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.

**Answer:**

1. For 2011-12 no Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) official accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel.
2. For 2011-12, \$2.283m excluding GST has been spent on travel as detailed below:

APSC staff airfare	\$381,765
Overseas study tour airfare (Leading Australia's future in the Asia-Pacific)	\$141,573
International assistance recipient airfare	\$493,173
Indigenous recruitment candidate airfare	\$242,948
Travel allowance	\$724,846
Taxi and parking	\$167,729
Motor vehicle	\$131,015
Total travel cost	<b>\$2,283,048</b>

Of the total airfare cost, it is estimated that only 30% (\$382k) was for APSC staff whilst the remaining 70% was for non-APSC travel: i.e. travel for public servants coming to Australia from developing countries, indigenous candidates travel for recruitment and other APS employees travel for the overseas study tour.

The APSC does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow the detailed breakdown of costs and itemised information requested to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of APSC resources.

3. The Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel are followed. Adherence is monitored on a trip by trip basis by the delegate who approves the travel.