

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Corporate Services Group

Question No. 113

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 23 February 2009:

In relation to Community Cabinet;

- a) what was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates,
- b) how many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting,
- c) what was the total cost of this travel,
- d) what was the total cost to the Department of the Community Cabinet, and
- e) what was the total cost to the Department and Ministerial offices of the Community Cabinet?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

a) As at 23 February 2009 the cost of the Ministers' Travel and expenses for Community Cabinet meetings was \$5,578.36.

b) 29 June 2008 – meeting attended by 1 Ministerial staff and 3 Departmental staff.

14 August 2008 – meeting attended by 2 Ministerial staff and 2 Departmental staff.

29 September 2008 – meeting attended by 1 Ministerial staff and 3 Departmental staff.

5 November 2008 – meeting attended by 1 Ministerial staff and 2 Departmental staff.

7 December 2008 – meeting attended by 1 Ministerial staff and 3 Departmental staff.

c) As at 23 February 2009 the total cost of the travel of Ministerial staff and Departmental officers was \$48,581.63.

d) and e) The total cost to the Department for Community Cabinet was \$43,609.25 and the total cost to the Ministerial offices for Community Cabinet was \$10,550.74.

Note: The Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that without consultation with the travellers, the information above relies on an assumption that all travel to and from relevant locations immediately before and after the relevant Cabinet meetings, was for the purposes of attending the Cabinet meetings.