

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(50) Output: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

Ministerial Travel

- (1) Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates?
- (2) If so, where was the travel and what was the duration?
- (3) What was the total cost of:
 - a) travel
 - b) accommodation, and
 - c) any other expenses?
- (4) How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?
- (5) For these staff/family what was the cost of:
 - a) travel
 - b) accommodation, and
 - c) any other expenses?
- (6) How many officers from the Department accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?
- (7) In relation to these Departmental officers, what was the total cost of:
 - a) travel
 - b) accommodation, and
 - c) any other expenses?

Answer:

(1) The Minister has travelled three times since Budget Estimates in May 2008. The Parliamentary Secretary has travelled once.

(2) The Minister travelled to:

- Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore from 5 to 12 August 2008;
- Vietnam from 11 to 14 January 2009; and
- Indonesia from 2 to 4 March 2009.

The Parliamentary Secretary travelled to Malaysia from 8 to 11 June 2008.

Responses to questions (3) to (7) for each visit are set out below.

Minister's visit to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore

(3) The costs for the Minister, as detailed in the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) report 'Parliamentarians' Travel Paid By The Department of Finance and Deregulation', are set out in the table below:

(a) Travel	\$6,100
(b) Accommodation	\$1,450

(4) One - the Minister's Chief of Staff accompanied him.

(5) The costs for the Chief of Staff, as detailed in Finance's report 'Parliamentarians' Travel Paid By The Department of Finance and Deregulation', are set out in the table below:

(a) Travel	\$6,750
(b) Accommodation	\$1,350

(6) One – the Secretary of the Department for Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) accompanied the Minister.

(7) The costs for the Secretary are set out in the table below:

(a) Travel	\$8,650
(b) Accommodation	\$1,400

For questions 3(c), 5(c) and 6(c), costs for the whole travelling party are in the order of \$21,250, covering security, ground transport, travel allowance, official hospitality, a charter flight to visit a refugee camp, gifts and miscellaneous expenses.

Minister's visit to Vietnam 11 to 14 January 2009

For questions (3)(a), (b) and (c) and (5)(a), (b) and (c), expenditure for this overseas visit has not yet been reconciled.

All costs of official overseas travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, accompanying spouses (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Dates, destinations, the purpose and costs of all official overseas travel are tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled 'Parliamentarians' Travel Paid By The Department of Finance and Deregulation'.

(4) One - The Minister was accompanied by an adviser.

(6) One – the DIAC Secretary accompanied the Minister.

(7) The costs for the Secretary are set out in the table below:

(a) Travel	\$10,950
(b) Accommodation	\$350
(c) Other expenses	\$700

Minister's visit to Indonesia 2 to 4 March 2009

For questions (3)(a), (b) and (c) and (5)(a), (b) and (c), expenditure for this overseas visit has not yet been reconciled.

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(4) One – the Minister was accompanied by his Media Adviser.

(6) None.

(7) N/A.

Parliamentary Secretary's visit to Malaysia 8 to 11 June 2008

(3) The costs for the Parliamentary Secretary, as detailed in Finance's report 'Parliamentarians' Travel Paid By The Department of Finance and Deregulation', are set out in the table below:

(a) Travel	\$4,550
(b) Accommodation	Nil
(c) Other expenses – travel allowance	\$200

(4) Two – the Parliamentary Secretary was accompanied by his spouse and his adviser.

(5) The costs for the Parliamentary Secretary's spouse and his adviser, as detailed in Finance's report 'Parliamentarians' Travel Paid By The Department of Finance and Deregulation', are set out in the table below:

(a) Travel	\$9,000
(b) Accommodation	Nil
(c) Other expenses – Adviser's travel allowance	\$450

(6) None.

(7) N/A.

Please note that the costs above:

- are based on information provided by the Department of Finance and Deregulation; advice from the Overseas Posts and reconciliation of expenses as at 16 March 2009; and
- have been rounded to the nearest \$50.