

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 95

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

Travel Costs

For this financial year to date:

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately,) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
2. For the financial year to date, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
3. For the financial year to date, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
4. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
5. Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.
6. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the cost per employee.
7. When SES employees travel, does any support or administrative staff (such as their Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

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

Australian Federal Police

1. (AGD to answer)
2. (AGD to answer)
3. (AGD to answer)
4. The AFP does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of AFP resources. However, below is a high level summary of travel costs for the financial year to date up to 29 February 2012.

Airlines			Accommodation – Domestic and International Combined
	Class	Value	
Domestic	Business Class	\$209,344.45	\$4,906,541
	Economy Class	\$3,379,965.81	
International	Business Class	\$654,055.02	
	Premium Economy Class	\$66,002.68	
	Economy Class	\$3,422,156.47	
TOTAL		\$7,731,524.43	

Other Travel Expenses	
Meals (International but may contain some domestic) – AFP does not provide a Per Diem for International Travel	\$208,853
Travel Allowance (Per Diem) – Domestic Travel	\$4,379,900
Taxis	664,207
Car Rental	293,011
TOTAL	\$5,545,972

5. Yes, it is AFP policy that staff take the most direct route whilst travelling to and from destinations.

6. Yes. Please refer to tables below for information on types of memberships, how many employees and their classification. The reason for the provision of memberships in the AFP includes entitlement, Enterprise Agreements and Operational Requirements.

Set out below are numbers for lounge memberships paid by the Australian Federal Police.

Lounge Memberships		
1 July 2011 – 29 February 2012		
QANTAS CLUB	VIRGIN LOUNGE	OTHER
158	2	2

No of Employee and Classification Provided with Lounge Membership						
No of Employees	SES	Superintendent or equivalent and above	Overseas Senior Liaison Officers (Band 3-9)	Sergeant or equivalent	Protection Teams	Operational Requirement (Bands 3-7)
162	11	76	8	6	30	31

Costs of Providing Lounge Membership		
Type	Number and Cost	Membership
Renewals	134 x \$275	Qantas Club
	1 x \$249	Virgin Lounge
New members	19 x \$485	Qantas Club
	1 x \$850	Qantas Club
	1 x \$385	Virgin Lounge
Priority Pass	1 x \$412/ 1 x \$385	Various Airlines
Tier status changes	3 x \$460	Qantas Club
Transfer of membership	1 x \$40	Qantas Club

7. Yes, on the few occasions when required. Such travel is only undertaken on a business or operational requirement that justifies the expenditure. The AFP does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow for the cost of support staff travel to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would be an unreasonable diversion of AFP resources.