

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0114) Program: Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.

Answer:

DIAC

Departmental staff are required to take the most direct route when travelling, however their paramount consideration is value for money and the efficient, effective, and ethical use of public money.

The department's Travel Policy states that officials must select the lowest practical fare for domestic travel and best fare of the day for international travel.

All staff who are required to travel by air domestically on behalf of the department must travel economy class unless there is a business case, or entitlement to travel business class. All staff who are required to travel internationally on behalf of the department are entitled to travel business class.

MRT-RRT

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal members and staff are to travel the most direct route.

All tribunal staff and members are encouraged to travel economy class - the 'lowest practical fare' which suits the practical business needs of the traveller. Members and some officers are entitled to travel business class, however the bulk of travel is by economy class.