

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

Priorities and Coordination Division

Question No. 176

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2009:

This calendar year, has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business?

a) If so, where was the travel and what was the duration? What was the total cost of:

- i) travel
- ii) accommodation, and
- iii) any other expenses?

b) How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?

For these staff/family, what was the cost of:

- i) travel
- ii) accommodation, and
- iii) any other expenses?

c) How many officers from the Department accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?

In relation to these Departmental officers, what was the total cost of:

- i) travel
- ii) accommodation, and
- iii) any other expenses?

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

The Attorney-General undertook one ministerial visit during the period 1 January 2009 to 27 May 2009. Details of the visit are provided at **Attachment A**.

The former Minister for Home Affairs undertook two ministerial visits during the period 1 January 2009 to 27 May 2009. Details of each of the visits are provided at **Attachment A**.

Costs associated with official 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 aggregate 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*'.

Attorney-General's Portfolio – Overseas Ministerial Travel

	Attorney-General	MHA	MHA
Trip Number	1	1	2
Country	New Zealand	Solomon Islands	Indonesia
City/s	Wellington	Honiara	Bali
Period of travel	6-16 January 2009	5-9 April 2009	14-15 April 2009
Nights overseas	10 nights ⁽¹⁾	4 nights	2 nights
Number of meetings	11 meetings	15 meetings	2 + BPMP Program
Purpose	Meet with ministerial counterparts and senior government officials in relation to counter-terrorism, civil justice and other bilateral issues	Meet ministerial counterparts and senior government officials in relation to law enforcement, border protection and legal assistance initiatives	Attend Bali Process Ministerial Conference as part of Australian delegation with Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Number of accompanying staff	One	One	One
Number of accompanying family	Three ⁽²⁾	One	N/A
Number of accompanying Departmental officials	One (AGD)	One (AFP)	One (ACBPS)
Cost of Departmental officials travel	\$ 2,069.00	\$ 1,839.00	\$ 2,691.00
Cost of Departmental officials accommodation	\$ 536.00	\$ 993.00	\$ 957.00
Cost of Departmental officials other costs	\$ 637.00	\$ 126.00	\$ 383.00
Total Departmental costs	\$ 3,242.00	\$ 2,958.00	\$ 4,031.00
Notes			
(1) - The Attorney-General's visit to New Zealand was for a total of 11 days, with eight of these days taken as leave approved by the Prime Minister. All costs borne during the period of leave were met personally by the Attorney-General.			
(2) - The Attorney-General was accompanied by his wife and by two children on the visit to New Zealand. All costs associated with the children were met personally by the Attorney-General.			