

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0139) Program: Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

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 total costs of the lounge memberships.

Answer:

DIAC

The department's Travel Policy states that if an official is required to fly regularly (eight or more times a year) and there is a business need, a delegate may approve an airport corporate lounge membership for that official.

The following table itemises the classifications for staff that hold a Corporate Lounge Membership, as at 31 May 2012.

Classification	Number of Memberships
APS 4-6	132
Executive Level 1-2	268
Legal Officers	11
Public Affairs Officers	4
Medical Officer 4	1
SES	75
Secretary	1
Total	492

The Department's lounge membership rates for both Virgin and Qantas are listed below:

Annual Virgin Lounge Membership is \$249.00 – no joining fee

Annual Qantas Lounge Membership is \$275.00 – plus one off joining fee of \$210.00

MRT-RRT

Yes. During the year, membership in the Qantas Club was provided to 2 employees (1 x EL1 and 1 x SES band 2), 1 Deputy Principal member and 5 senior members. These memberships are provided on the basis of regular and ongoing travel for tribunal work and must be approved by the Principal Member or Registrar. The cost per employee ranges from \$275 to \$665 for two-year memberships, depending on whether a joining fee is included and the year joined.