

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

Corporate Services Group

Question No. 2

Senator Trood asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:

Provide ministerial travel expenditure, including travel, accommodation and any other expenses, since June 2008, including details of:

- a) The destinations,
- b) Costs of ministerial staff travelling with the Attorney/Minister for Home Affairs,
- c) Costs relating to family accompanying the Attorney/Minister for Home Affairs, and
- d) Costs relating to departmental officers accompanying the Attorney/Minister for Home Affairs?

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

Ministerial travel expenditure for the period 1 July 2008 to 20 October 2008 totalled approximately \$164,540.00. A breakdown of the costs is provided below and in the attached table:

Attorney-General

The Attorney-General undertook two ministerial visits during the period:

Destination	Reason for Travel	Period of Travel	Total Cost of Visit
United Kingdom	Attend Commonwealth Law Minister's Meeting	5-12 July	\$68,105
*New Zealand	Attend Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) and signing of Trans-Tasman Treaty on Court Proceedings and Regulatory Enforcement	23-25 July	\$25,256

****Note** – Please note that the cost of Departmental staff travel is included in the Attorney-General's details.

Minister for Home Affairs

The Minister for Home Affairs undertook three ministerial visits during the period:

Destination	Reason for Travel	Period of Travel	Total Cost of Visit
East Timor	Meet ministerial counterparts and senior government officials	2-5 July	\$7,480
*New Zealand	Attend Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG)	23-25 July	\$6,344
Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand	Joint visit with Minister for Immigration and Citizenship	2-11 August	\$57,355

* Cost of Departmental staff travel included in Attorney-General's details.

	Attorney-General	Attorney-General	Minister for Home Affairs	Minister for Home Affairs	Minister for Home Affairs
Trip Number	1	2	1	2	3
Destination/s	United Kingdom	New Zealand	East Timor	New Zealand	Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand
Country	United Kingdom	New Zealand	East Timor	New Zealand	
Period of travel	5-12 July 2008	23-25 July 2008	2-5 July 2008	23-25 July 2008	2-11 August 2008
Number of days	7 days	2 days	3 days	2 days	9 days
Purpose	Attend Commonwealth Law Minister's Meeting	Attend Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) Signing of Trans-Tasman Treaty on Court Proceedings and Regulatory Enforcement	Meet ministerial counterparts and senior government officials in relation to law enforcement, border protection and legal assistance initiatives	Attend Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG)	Joint visit with Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to meet ministerial counterparts and key regional partners on irregular migration, people smuggling and trafficking matters
Cost of Minister's travel	\$ 15,603.00	\$ 2,576.00	\$ 981.00	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 7,196.00
Cost of Minister's accommodation	\$ 2,552.00	\$ 577.00	\$ 784.00	\$ 472.00	\$ 1,306.00
Cost of Minister's other costs	\$ 790.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 252.00	\$ 223.00	\$ 5,993.00
Total Minister's Costs	\$ 18,945.00	\$ 3,191.00	\$ 2,017.00	\$ 3,035.00	\$ 14,495.00
Number of accompanying staff	One	Two	One	One	One
Cost of staff travel	\$ 15,603.00	\$ 6,066.00	\$ 981.00	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 7,114.00
Cost of staff accommodation	\$ 2,226.00	\$ 740.00	\$ 784.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 636.00
Cost of staff other costs	\$ 244.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 514.00	\$ 428.00
Total staff costs	\$ 18,073.00	\$ 6,902.00	\$ 1,798.00	\$ 3,309.00	\$ 8,178.00
Number of accompanying family	N/A	One	N/A	N/A	One
Cost of spouse travel	\$ -	\$ 2,501.00	N/A	N/A	\$ 6,939.00
Cost of spouse accommodation	\$ -	Included in Minister's Costs	N/A	N/A	Included in Minister's Costs
Cost of spouse other costs	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	N/A	\$ 314.00
Total spouse costs	\$ -	\$ 2,501.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,253.00
Number of accompanying Departmental officials	Two (AGD)	Four (AGD)**	One (AFP)	Three (AGD) Included in AG Visit # 2	Three (One AFP, One AGD, One ACS)
Cost of Departmental officials travel	\$ 23,916.00	\$ 10,216.00	\$ 3,235.00		\$ 21,662.00
Cost of Departmental officials accommodation	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 1,439.00	\$ 399.00		\$ 3,120.00
Cost of Departmental officials other costs	\$ 2,821.00	\$ 1,007.00	\$ 31.00		\$ 2,647.00
Total Departmental costs	\$ 31,087.00	\$ 12,662.00	\$ 3,665.00	\$ -	\$ 27,429.00
TOTAL COST OF VISIT	\$ 68,105.00	\$ 25,256.00	\$ 7,480.00	\$ 6,344.00	\$ 57,355.00
Note: ** - The four Department officials who accompanied the Attorney-General and Minister on the visit to New Zealand also participated in other meetings, and some of their costs relate to this work. One official travelled primarily for the treaty signing and related meetings, and did not attend SCAG.					