

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(442) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

(1) The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed a whole-of-government coordinated procurement arrangements for travel and related services. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies? Please explain the changes that have occurred to your department and portfolio agencies in relation to its travel and related services.

(2) Is purchasing of travel and related services less expensive under the new arrangements?

(3) Is purchasing of travel and related services more efficient under the new arrangements?

(4) Have savings been achieved in your portfolio because of the new arrangements?

(5) How much did your department and portfolio agencies spend on travel in 2008-09, 2009-10 and to date this financial year.

(6) How have staff within your department and portfolio agencies found the new arrangements? For example is it more efficient to arrange travel?

Answer:

(1) The Whole of Australian Government (WoAG) travel and related services which commenced on 1 July 2010 have been implemented in the Department and portfolio agencies (Migration Review Tribunal/Refugee Review Tribunal (MRT/RRT) as follows:

- with regards to travel management services, the Department is currently in an interim arrangement with Carlson Wagonlit (CWT) to provide travel management services. In January 2011 a Request for Quote will be undertaken to select a provider from the established panel of travel management companies (TMC); and
- the Australian Government has negotiated discounted airfares on domestic and international routes which are being accessed by the Department and portfolio agencies through the TMC.

(2) On the basis of the travel expenditure incurred since 1 July 2010 air travel services are less expensive under the new arrangements.

(3) As the Department is in a transition period with the pre-WoAG TMC there has been no change in the procedure for purchasing of travel and related services.

(4) On the basis of air travel expenditure incurred since 1 July 2010, the portfolio is achieving savings under the new arrangements.

(5) Please see table below.

Year	DIAC Spend	MRT/RRT Spend	Total Spend
2008-09	\$24,626,424	\$239,716	\$24,866,140
2009-10	\$27,417,235	\$251,412	\$27,668,647
2010-11 to 31 October 2010	\$8,248,538	\$80,895	\$8,329,433
Note: The above travel expenditure amounts are comprised of airfares, accommodation and allowances for departmental staff only.			

(6) As the Department is in a transition period with the pre-WoAG TMC staff have not experienced any change in procedures for arranging travel.