

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

Program All

Question No. 105

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Travel Costs

- a) For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately,) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
- b) For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- c) For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- d) For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
- e) For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
- f) For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- g) For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- h) For the year FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

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

- a) – c) 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*'.

The Attorney-General undertook two official overseas ministerial visits in 2010-11. Further details are provided in the table below.

The total costs incurred by the Attorney-General's Department or its portfolio agencies in relation to departmental staff accompanying the Attorney-General on official overseas ministerial travel for 2010-11 is approximately \$3,062.58.

The total costs incurred by the Attorney-General's Department or its portfolio agencies in relation to departmental staff accompanying the Minister for Home Affairs on official overseas ministerial travel for 2010-11 is approximately \$72,298.82.

2010-11

Trip Number	1	2
Country	New Zealand	New Zealand
City	Wellington and Christchurch	Auckland
Period of travel	3-5 March 2011	8-9 April 2011
Nights overseas	2 nights (inc travel)	1 night
Number of meetings	2 meetings, 1 day SCAG and 1 site visit	2 day Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) program
Purpose of trip	The Attorney-General met with his New Zealand counterpart and the Minister for Justice prior to attending SCAG meetings on afternoon of 4 March. On 5 March the Attorney-General flew to Christchurch as a guest of the New Zealand Government to view Christchurch recovery operations and met with Australian personnel assisting in the efforts	Attend the ANZLF
Number of accompanying staff	2	2
Number of accompanying family members	Nil	Nil
Number of accompanying Departmental officials	1	Nil
Travel costs	\$2396.91	

Accommodation costs	\$391.92	
Other costs	\$273.75	
Total Departmental/Portfolio costs	\$3062.58	

The Minister for Home Affairs undertook five official overseas ministerial visits in 2010-11. Further details are provided in the table below.

2010-11

Trip number	1	2	3	4	5
Country	Solomon Islands	Timor Leste	New Zealand	Malaysia, Indonesia	Malaysia
City/s	Honiara	Dili	Wellington	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta	Kuala Lumpur
Period of travel	6-8 December 2010	13-15 December 2010	4-5 March 2011	13-18 March 2011	27-29 March 2011
Nights overseas (incl travel)	2	2	1	5	2
Number of meetings	11	8	1	13	2 + 2 day GPEC Asia Program
Purpose	Inspect AFP operations and meet with counterparts to discuss police capacity building, regional law enforcement cooperation, combating serious and organised crime and technical legal assistance.	Inspect AFP operations, speak at the pilot course on Defence and Security, visit the PNTL training centre and attend chapel opening ceremony. Meet with counterparts to discuss police capacity building.	Attend Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG). Bilateral meeting with Chief Executive of the New Zealand Customs Service prior to SCAG.	Meet with Ministerial counterparts and senior officials to reinforce commitment to ongoing cooperation on transnational crime issues, particularly people smuggling, people trafficking and organised crime.	Attend 2 nd General Police Equipment Exhibition and Conference Asia 2011 (GPEC Asia 2011) and meet with Ministerial counterparts and senior officials in relation to issues including people smuggling, trafficking in persons, border control, establishment of a transnational crime academy,

					mutual extradition and international crime cooperation.
Number of accompanying staff	1	2	1	1	1
Number of accompanying family	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of accompanying Departmental officials	4 (AFP)	4 (AFP)	1(AGD)	3 (1 x AGD, 2 x AFP)	2 (AFP)
Travel costs	\$14 202.52	\$8194.52	\$2396.91	\$24 382.52	\$9650.02
Accommodation costs	\$4433.64	\$3037.40	\$391.92	\$3411.31	\$432.55
Other costs	\$96.90	\$44.90	\$273.75	\$1317.10	\$32.86
Total Departmental/Portfolio Costs	\$18 733.06	\$11 276.82	\$3 062.58	\$29 110.93	\$10 115.43

d) The Department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to this question. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. The travel expense data available for the year 2010-11 is:

International airfares	\$1,775,267.18
Accommodation and travel allowance -international travel	\$ 305,474.91
Domestic airfares	\$1,608,835.36
Accommodation and travel allowance -domestic travel	\$1,185,669.98
Total expenses 2010-11	\$4,875,247.43

The Department's policy for domestic travel, is that non-SES staff are required to travel economy class air travel and SES are entitled to travel Business class air travel except for Canberra to Melbourne return and Canberra to Sydney return where economy class is required. For international travel, business class is the entitlement for all air travel.

For agencies' 2010-2011 travel costs see individual listings over the page grouped together with 2011-2012 year to date data.

e)-f) The Attorney-General has undertaken one official overseas ministerial visit in 2011-12 to date. Further details are provided in the table below.

2011-12 (to 30 September 2011)

Trip number	1
Country	New Zealand
City/s	Wellington
Period of travel	27-29 July 2011
Nights overseas	2 (incl travel)
Number of meetings	SCPEM program
Purpose	Attend Standing Committee for Police and Emergency Management (SCPEM).
Number of accompanying staff	2
Number of accompanying family	Nil
Number of accompanying Departmental officials	1
Travel costs	\$2524.94
Accommodation costs	Nil
Other costs	\$435.00
Total Departmental/Portfolio Costs	\$2959.94

The Minister for Home Affairs has undertaken one official overseas ministerial visit in 2011-12 to date. Further details are provided in the table below.

2011-12 (to 30 September 2011)

Trip number	1
Country	New Zealand
City/s	Wellington
Period of travel	28 – 29 July 2011
Nights overseas	1 (incl travel)
Number of meetings	2 + 2 day SCPEM program
Purpose	Attend Standing Committee for Police and Emergency Management (SCPEM). Also meet with New Zealand Minister of Customs and the Minister of Police to discuss a range of issues, including the progress of rolling out Smart Gates, providing an update on the Trans-Tasman travel facilitation work, the joint studies looking at further improvements to the Trans-Tasman travel arrangements and to discuss New Zealand's perspective on the Police response to the Christchurch earthquake and if/how the AFP contribution assisted.
Number of accompanying staff	1
Number of accompanying family	Nil

Number of accompanying Departmental officials	1 (AFP)
Travel costs	\$2524.94
Accommodation costs	\$506.78
Other costs	Nil
Total Departmental/Portfolio Costs	\$3031.72

g) The total costs incurred by the Attorney-General's Department in relation to departmental staff accompanying the Attorney-General on official overseas ministerial travel for 2011-12 to date is \$2959.94.

The total costs incurred by the Attorney-General's Department or its portfolio agencies in relation to departmental staff accompanying the Minister for Home Affairs on official overseas ministerial travel for 2011-12 to date is \$3031.72.

h) The Department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to this question. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. The travel expense data available for the year 2011-2012 financial year to 30 September 2011 is:

International airfares	\$514,765.96
Accommodation and travel allowance -international travel	\$ 60,207.26
Domestic airfares	\$572,230.89
Accommodation and travel allowance -domestic travel	\$493,338.80
Total expenses 2010-11	\$1,640,542.91

For agencies' travel costs see individual listings below.

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity

d) The majority of ACLEI's travel is undertaken by operational staff undertaking operational work. To disclose travel details at the level asked may compromise ACLEI investigations. ACLEI would respectfully decline to answer the question at the detail level requested on the grounds that it would reveal operational information.

Total travel costs for ACLEI for 2010-11 were \$179,271.

h) The majority of ACLEI's travel is undertaken by operational staff undertaking operational work. To disclose travel details at the level asked may compromise ACLEI investigations. ACLEI would respectfully decline to answer the question at the detail level requested on the grounds that it would reveal operational information.

Total travel costs for ACLEI for 2011-12 to 30 September 2011 were \$48,135.

Australian Crime Commission

- d) The ACC does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to this question. Effort to provide this level of detail would involve unreasonable diversion of agency resources. The table below outlines the expenditure in 2010-11 by airfares, accommodation and travel allowance.

2010-11

Airfares	\$1,760,068
Accommodation	\$715,528
Travel allowance	\$849,667
TOTAL	\$3,325,263

All ACC employees must identify a genuine business need for travel prior to booking any travel and must consider all other viable, cost effective alternatives to travel (for instance video conferencing). An employee who undertakes travel on official business and is required to be away from home overnight is entitled to payment of a travel allowance to cover the reasonable cost of meals and incidental expenses. All reasonable accommodation and air travel costs associated with official business are paid for by the ACC.

ACC policy is that the best fare of the day must be used unless there is an entitlement or business requirement to do otherwise.

- h) The ACC does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to this question. Effort to provide this level of detail would involve unreasonable diversion of agency resources. The table below outlines the expenditure in 2011-12 (year to date to 30 September 2011) by airfares, accommodation and travel allowance.

2011-12 (to 30 September 2011)

Airfares	\$262,333
Accommodation	\$259,151
Travel allowance	\$127,710
TOTAL	\$649,194

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

- d) A total of \$20,483,404 was spent on travel in 2010-11. The travel undertaken was approved in accordance with Commonwealth policy in relation to travel for officers of the Australian Public Service. This policy and the entitlement for officers of Customs and Border Protection are outlined in the Chief Executive Instructions (CEIs) and associated documents and the current Collective Agreement (for officers at a classification below SES). SES officers may have specific travel entitlements built into their individual Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs).

The information sought in this question cannot be provided as the financial data is not collated to the level of detail that allows the answer to the question to be readily provided.

However, the travel costs for 2010-11 that can be disaggregated by Customs and Border Protection are detailed in the table below.

2010-2011

Short Term Vehicle Hire	\$1,098,427
Domestic Travel Allowance and Motor Vehicle Allowance	\$9,110,196
Overseas Airfares	\$1,837,217
Domestic Airfares	\$4,788,678
Domestic Accommodation	\$3,223,913
Overseas Travel Allowance and Accommodation	\$424,973
TOTAL	\$20,483,404

h) A total of \$9,213,889 was spent on travel in the 2011-12 financial year as at 30 September 2011. The travel undertaken was approved in accordance with Commonwealth policy in relation to travel for officers of the Australian Public Service. This policy and the entitlement for officers of Customs and Border Protection are outlined in the Chief Executive Instructions (CEIs) and associated documents and the current Collective Agreement (for officers at a classification below SES). SES officers may have specific travel entitlements built into their individual Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs).

The information sought in this question cannot be provided as the financial data is not collated to the level of detail that allows the answer to the question to be easily provided.

However, the travel costs for 2011-12 (30 September 2011) that can be disaggregated by Customs and Border Protection are detailed in the table below.

2011-12 (to 30 September 2011)

Short Term Vehicle Hire	\$221,995
Domestic Travel Allowance and Motor Vehicle Allowance	\$2,057,101
Overseas Airfares	\$645,916
Domestic Airfares	\$3,938,497
Domestic Accommodation	\$2,157,256
Overseas Travel Allowance and Accommodation	\$193,124
TOTAL	\$9,213,889

Australian Federal Police

a) The AFP does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of AFP resources. However, below is a high level summary of travel costs for 2010-11.

2010-2011

Domestic Airfares	
Economy Class (28969 Sectors)	\$6,012,900
Business Class (566 Sectors)	\$333,932
International Airfares	
Economy Class (9551 Sectors)	\$5,486,271
Premium Class (1670 Sectors)	\$1,105,303
Business Class (1611 Sectors)	\$1,470,972
TOTAL Airfares	\$14,409,378
Accommodation – Domestic and International Combined	\$12,214,205
Other Travel Costs	
Meals (International but may contain some domestic) – AFP does not provide a Per Diem for International Travel	\$450,637
Travel Allowance (Per Diem) – Domestic Travel	\$7,395,819
Taxis	\$1,316,893
Car Rental	\$525,753
TOTAL Other Costs	\$9,689,102
TOTAL	\$36,312,685

- h) The AFP does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of AFP resources. However, below is a high level summary of travel costs for FYTD.

2011-12 (to 30 September 2011)

Domestic Airfares	
Economy Class (6430 Sectors)	\$1,388,078
Business Class (128 Sectors)	\$81,501
International Airfares	
Economy Class (2613 Sectors)	\$1,267,758
Premium Class (81 Sectors)	\$62,000
Business Class (630 Sectors)	\$457,692
TOTAL Airfares	\$3,257,029
Accommodation – Domestic and International Combined	\$3,022,177
Other Travel Costs	
Meals (International but may contain some domestic) – AFP does not provide a Per Diem for International Travel	\$114,940
Travel Allowance (Per Diem) – Domestic Travel	\$2,441,329
Taxis	\$379,107
Car Rental	\$150,911
TOTAL Other Costs	\$3,086,287
TOTAL	\$9,365,493

Australian Government Solicitor

- d) AGS's records for travel costs for 2010-11 show a figure of \$2,182,282. This includes both travel by AGS employees for the purpose of client business (which is generally reimbursed by AGS clients) and also for internal purposes. It includes airfares, accommodation, car hire, taxis, parking, meals and other expenses.

AGS does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers on the further details sought. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable use of AGS resources.

AGS's Employment Agreement provides that travel should be in economy class, except where the circumstances of the flight justify a higher class or where senior employees had entitlements carried over in 1999 when AGS was established as a separate agency and employees left the public service.

- h) AGS's records for travel costs for the period 1 July - 30 September 2011 show a figure of \$748,203. See response to part d) for further information.

Australian Human Rights Commission

- d) The Commission does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to this question. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. The travel expense data available is:

2010-2011

Domestic Airfares	\$194,035
Domestic Travel Allowance, includes Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals	\$322,147(ex GST)
Motor Vehicle Hire	\$31,583
Other travel expenses	\$42,517
Overseas Airfares	\$412,114 (ex GST)
Overseas Travel Allowance, includes Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals	\$207,251 (ex GST)
TOTAL	\$1,209,647

Of the amount reported above \$584,853.00 is related to the Human Rights Technical Co-operation Program with China and Vietnam and is fully cost recovered from AUSAID.

- h) The Commission does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to this question. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. The travel expense data available is:

2011-12 (to 30 September 2011)

Domestic Airfares	\$59,305
Domestic Travel Allowance, includes Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals	\$54,486 (ex GST)
Motor Vehicle Hire	\$4,882
Other travel expenses	\$14,668
Overseas Airfares	\$67,088 (ex GST)

Overseas Travel Allowance, includes Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals	\$20,211 (ex GST)
TOTAL	\$220,640

Of the amount reported above \$125,096.65 is related to the Human Rights Technical Co-operation Program with China and Vietnam and is fully cost recovered from AUSAID.

Australian Law Reform Commission

- d) In 2010-11, the ALRC spent \$15,827 on airfares, representing around 100 transactions and a further \$6,587 on accommodation, representing around 30 transactions and \$3,972 on travel allowance, representing 30 transactions. Travel data is not recorded in a way that readily allows these transactions to be easily itemised. The ALRC has a very small finance team and to attempt to provide this level of detail would involve a diversion of available resources, particularly at this time.
- h) For the year FYTD the ALRC has spent \$4,564 in airfares, \$1,235 in accommodation, \$700 travel allowance and \$700 in miscellaneous. As the Commission does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to this question, to attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

For operational security reasons, it would be inappropriate to provide a breakdown of ASIO's travel costs.

CrimTrac

- d) CrimTrac expenditure on travel and accommodation for 2010-11 was \$439,351 (ex GST). This was primarily airfares, accommodation and travel allowance. CrimTrac travel comprises travel for police agency attendance at national law enforcement user groups, travel for CrimTrac projects and CrimTrac Board travel. CrimTrac staff are expected to fly economy class unless they are SES officers travelling outside of the Canberra/Sydney Canberra/Melbourne routes; or a business case is submitted and approved for a different class of travel.
- CrimTrac does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow detailed answers to this question. To attempt to provide a more detailed response would involve an unreasonable diversion of court resources.
- h) CrimTrac expenditure on travel and accommodation for 2011-12 to 30 September 2011 is \$43,796 (ex GST). This is primarily airfares, accommodation and travel allowance. CrimTrac travel comprises travel for police agency attendance at national law enforcement user groups, travel for CrimTrac projects and CrimTrac Board travel. CrimTrac staff are expected to fly economy class unless they are SES officers travelling outside of the Canberra/Sydney Canberra/Melbourne routes; or a business case is submitted and approved for a different class of travel.
- CrimTrac does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow detailed answers to this question. To attempt to provide a more detailed response would involve an unreasonable diversion of court resources.

High Court of Australia

d) For 2010-11 the High Court of Australia spent the following on employee travel:

- \$217,089.44 in travel allowances; and
- \$215,513.21 in airfares (ex GST).

Approximately 80% of this travel expenditure relates to travel between capital cities for Court sittings. The remaining 20% of travel expenditure relates to attendance at meetings, professional development and relocation at the commencement and completion of associateships.

To attempt to provide a more detailed response would involve an unreasonable diversion of court resources.

h) For 2011-12 to 30 September 2011 the High Court of Australia has spent the following on employee travel:

- \$95,410.93 in travel allowances; and
- \$73,535.48 in airfares (excluding GST).

To attempt to provide a more detailed response would involve an unreasonable diversion of court resources.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP)

d) For the year 2010-11 the total cost of travel undertaken by employees was \$1,543,228 (inc GST).

Data is not readily accessible to provide the detail and split of costs as requested in the question. To provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.

h) For the FYTD the total cost of travel undertaken by employees was \$551,657 (inc GST).

Data is not readily accessible to provide the detail and split of costs as requested in the question. To provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.

Office of Parliamentary Counsel

d) The itemised information sought is not readily available. The resources that would be required to identify and collate the information sought would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources. However, the following information can be provided:

- i. Total domestic travel for 2010-11 cost \$56,265.40, made up of:
 - a. travel expenditure for staff development purposes \$32,764.12—
airfares \$22,449.54, travel allowances \$8,593.58 and other expenses \$1,721; and

- b. travel expenditure to attend meetings \$23,501.28—airfares \$13,423.75, travel allowances \$9,836.02 and other expenses \$241.51.
 - ii. Total international travel for 2010-11 cost \$87,121, made up of:
 - a. travel for staff on international exchanges \$42,048—airfares \$3,352, travel allowances \$36,696 and other expenses \$2,000; and
 - b. travel for drafters to attend Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel (CALC) conference \$45,073—airfares \$27,013 and travel allowances \$18,060.
 - iii. For domestic travel, all staff are required to use economy class air travel except First Parliamentary Counsel (FPC), Second Parliamentary Counsel and Senior Executive Service staff who are entitled to business class air travel. For international travel, business class is the standard except for FPC who is entitled to first class travel under the Remuneration Tribunal determination. However, in some circumstances, overseas travel may be approved on the proviso that economy class travel be used.
- h) The itemised information sought is not readily available. The resources that would be required to identify and collate the information sought would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources. However, the following information can be provided:
 - i. Total domestic travel for FYTD cost \$18,040.65, made up of:
 - a. travel expenditure for staff development purposes \$15,840.98—airfares \$8,017.01 and travel allowances \$7,823.97; and
 - b. travel expenditure to attend meetings \$2,199.67—airfares \$1,081.67 and travel allowances \$1,118.
 - ii. Total international travel for FYTD cost \$11,062.42, for travel to attend CALC meeting—airfares \$9,467.17 and travel allowances \$1,595.25.