

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 129

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:

Travel costs

- a) For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for agency officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
- b) For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for agency officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- c) What travel is planned for the rest of from 7 September 2013? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- d) What is the policy for business class airfare tickets?
- e) 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.
- f) When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.
- g) Does the agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

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

- a) The international travel of AFP officers which has included in accompanying the Minister for all or part of their travel is outlined below:

NAME	DATE FROM	DATE TO	PERIOD (DAYS)	PURPOSE OF TRAVEL	Cities	LOCATION	Type of Airfare
NEGUS, Tony Commissioner	21/07/2013	28/07/2013	7	Inter-Agency Meetings with FBI & United Nations, Accompany MHA	Washington , New York	USA	Discounted Business class
SHARPE, David Commander	21/07/2013	23/07/2013	2	Inter-Agency Meetings with FBI & United Nations, Accompany Commissioner with MHA	Los Angeles	USA	Discounted Business class

Both Commissioner NEGUS and Commander SHARPE accompanied the Minister on the day of 23 July 2013 only. The rest of the travel noted above was AFP business with no program with the Minister.

Commissioner Negus	Transport	Airfares	8436.28
		Booking Fee	101.48
			8537.76
	Accommodation (covering full period of travel)		3248.77
	Meals and Incidentals		62.83
Total			11849.36

David Sharpe	Transport	Airfares	7637.26
		Taxi	150.20
		Booking Fee	101.48
			7888.94
	Accommodation (covering full period of travel)		1719.94
	Meals and Incidentals		818.30
Total			10427.18

- b) Travel by Departmental officers AFP travel summary for the current financial year to date
– 1 July 2013 to 30 November 2013.

Description		
Overseas Airfares	Economy	\$1,686,483
	Business	\$329,581
Domestic Airfares	Economy	\$1,870,484
	Business	\$95,817
Accommodation		\$5,450,386
Overseas Meal and Incidental Expenditure		\$111,894
Domestic Travel Allowance		\$4,262,228
Car Rental		\$182,565
Taxi Fares		\$417,785

The AFP does not record domestic travel data in a way that would readily allow for the reason and brief explanation for each trip to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would be an unreasonable diversion of AFP resources.

c) The AFP expects business as usual travel requirements from 7 September to 31 December 2013. However, specific data on planned travel is not readily assessable. To provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

d) The AFP's policy is:

Officials must, wherever possible, travel in economy class using the lowest practical fare, taking the most direct route, unless there is a business case or an entitlement to travel business class. If business class is approved, the reasons for travel in that class must be documented.

e) Figures on lounge memberships paid for between 7 September and 18 November 2013 are provided below

Lounge Memberships paid for by the AFP between 7 September 2013 – 18 November 2013			
QANTAS CLUB	VIRGIN LOUNGE	PRIORITY PASS	TOTAL
62	0	1	63
SES	Superintendent or equivalent and above (Band 9)	Operational Requirement (Bands 3-7)	
4	35	24	
TOTAL COSTS: \$17,610			

Lounge memberships (either Qantas or Virgin Australia and including approved Priority Pass for off shore Liaison Officers) are provided to Executive Level and SES as an entitlement under their individual employee agreements. Other employees can request consideration of a lounge membership on the basis of 15 completed trips per annum (operational requirements).

f) Yes, on a few occasions when the expenditure is justified for operational and/or business purposes. The AFP does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow for the cost of support staff travel to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would be an unreasonable diversion of AFP resources

g) No.

