

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 68

Topic: Travel Costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McKenzie asked:

For the financial year to date, 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.

Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.

Answer:

FaHCSIA is keen to reduce annual travel expenditure and has introduced a number of initiatives to achieve travel expenditure savings. These initiatives include: using Lowest Practical Fare (LPF), introducing an on-line travel booking tool, encouraging use of video conferencing facilities, reducing access to business class travel for shorter leg flights and encouraging all SES to travel economy class whenever practical.

For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012, FaHCSIA's expenditure on travel was \$8,275,670.48 (GST exclusive). For the same period, travel expenditure by Portfolio Agencies was \$6,557,829.95 (GST exclusive).

	Airfares	Accommodation	Travel Allowance	Other	Total
Departmental	\$4,201,053.76	\$1,572,970.10	\$1,383,543.07	\$1,118,103.55	\$8,275,670.48
Portfolio Agencies	\$3,353,798.61	\$1,054,546.86	\$1,726,705.36	\$422,779.12	\$6,557,829.95

The information was obtained from the General Ledger in the Department's Financial Management System. The Department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to the remaining questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.

The classification of "Other" includes offices' expenses where no travel allowance has been claimed, such as bus hire, venue hire and additional vehicle hire.

All employees travel by the most direct route available at the time of travel.