

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000015

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Travel Costs - Department

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig Joe

Question:

1. From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental 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).
2. From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental 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.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

1. The costs for travel for departmental officers accompanying the Minister/s from 7 September 2013 to 28 February 2014 period are \$5,047 for economy/business airfares, \$232 for accommodation and standard daily travel allowances.
2. For the period 7 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, the Department of Health, including the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS). spent \$4,003,242 on travel-expenses for its staff and external committee members

Type of expenditure	\$
Airfares – domestic	1,945,726
Airfares – international	535,319
Taxi Fares (including Cabcharge)	109,769
Accommodation, Travelling Allowance and Other Expenses	1,412,429
Total Travel Expenditure	4,003,242

Staff are required to travel extensively to administer, monitor and regulate the many health services provided to the Australian public. Travel expenses by TGA and NICNAS are industry cost recovered. Some of the expenses relate to Machinery of Government transferred staff but the amounts involved are still to be finalised and recovered.

3. Planned travel (as pre-loaded into the Department's approval workflow system) for the period 1 March 2014 to 31 December 2014 totals \$105,945.91 at the time of responding. This figure will change over this period as bookings may be amended or cancelled before the travel date and other travellers will make new bookings.