

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000065

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Sochi

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig Joe

Question:

- 1) Did the Minister attend the Sochi Winter Olympics?
 - a. If so, who accompanied the Minister?
 - b. Detail the total cost of the trip, broken down by airfare, accommodation, incidentals, security arrangements and any other expenditure?
 - c. What class of airfare did the minister and each of those accompanying the minister travel?
- 2) List the Minister's itinerary for the trip, including meetings and events attended.
 - a. Who arranged each of these meetings?
 - b. Who initiated each of the meeting requests for the minister's appointments? The Minister, the department, his office or the person he met with?
- 3) Did the department secretary accompany the Minister to the Sochi Olympics?
 - a. List the other international trips the Department Secretary has attended with the Minister
 - b. Who made the decision for the secretary to attend? Please detail the approval process and table the relating documents for the departmental secretary to attend, including who made the initial request for the departmental secretary to attend
- 4) Did the Minister write to the Prime Minister or the Prime Minister's delegate seeking approval of the trip to the Sochi games?
 - a. If so, when did he write?
 - b. If so, when was a reply received?
 - c. If so, were revisions sought?
 - i. If so, what were they?
 - d. If so, did the Minister need to make more than one request for the approval of the Prime Minister for the trip?
 - e. If not, did someone else write on the Minister's behalf? If so, who, on what date and when was a reply received and by whom?
- 5) Did the letter seeking approval from the Prime Minister detail who would be attending the games with the Minister?
 - a. Did this include the department secretary attending the games?
 - i. If not, why not?
- 6) Did the Prime Minister make any requests, either formally or informally, that the secretary was to attend the games with the Minister?
 - a. If so, when?
 - b. If so, in what format?
 - c. If so, provide those documents

Answer:

- 1) Yes.
- a) The Secretary of the Department of Health, Professor Jane Halton PSM, attended the Sochi Winter Olympics with the Minister for Health, the Hon Peter Dutton MP.
- b) Costs of overseas travel by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, and any accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Information about destinations and the cost of travel undertaken is tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*.

The reports and supporting information are also published on the Department of Finance website. The reports are available at:
<http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/parliamentarians-reporting/index.html>

The following costs relate to the Secretary's travel to Russia:

Travel to Russia	Airfare	Accommodation	Allowances
Jane Halton	\$12,164.40	\$736	\$1355

- c) The Minister and Secretary travelled Business Class.
- 2) A list of the meetings and events attended by the Minister is provided at Attachment A.
 - a) The Minister's meetings were arranged by the Department of Health with the assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Olympic Committee.
 - b) The meeting requests were initiated by the Department, on behalf of the Minister and his office.
- 3) Yes.
 - a) None.
 - b) The Minister made the decision for the Secretary to accompany him to the Sochi Winter Olympics.
- 4) Yes.
 - a) 12 December 2013.
 - b) 20 December 2013.
 - c) No.
 - i. Not applicable.
 - d) Not applicable.

e) Not Applicable.

5) Yes.

a) Yes.

i) Not applicable.

6) No.

a) to c)
Not Applicable.

List of meetings and events attended by the Minister

- Meetings with Australian athletes and support staff
- Meetings with Australian Olympic Committee representatives
- Visits to Athlete Villages and team facilities in Mountain Cluster and Adler Cluster
- Team Welcome Ceremony
- Australian Olympic Team Reception
- Meeting with Chair of Australian Sports Commission
- Meeting with Canadian Minister for State (Sport)
- Meeting with World Anti-Doping Agency Director General
- Meeting with UK Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
- Meeting with Chinese Minister for Sport
- Ministerial Networking Event hosted by Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport of the Council of Europe
- Official Reception hosted by Russian Minister for Sport
- 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony
- Various sporting events