

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 071

**Topic:** Travel Costs

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Fifield** asked:

- Is purchasing of travel and related services less expensive under the new arrangements?
- Is purchasing of travel and related services more efficient under the new arrangements?
- Have savings been achieved in the portfolio because of the new arrangements?

**Answer:**

- It is too early for a definitive answer to this question, however, average airfares at this stage appear to have decreased under the Whole of Australian Government (WoAG) travel arrangements.
- It is not yet possible to determine if the new travel arrangements are more efficient as the department is currently operating under an Interim Agency Agreement.
- Although slight savings on airfares have been achieved, the WoAG arrangement has not been in operation for a sufficient period to allow a comparative analysis of airfare and Travel Management Company expenses.