

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

Question: AET 254-261

Topic: Travel Costs

Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

254. For the financial year to date (22 February 2013), please 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 includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
255. For the financial year to date (22 February 2013), please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
256. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
257. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
258. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is the department/agency following the advice? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
259. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and what is their classification, what is the reason for the provision of lounge memberships and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
260. When SES employees travel, do any support / 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 their travel.
261. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees' work-related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

254.

AET 254 - 261 - Topic: FYTD Travel Costs Departmental Officers (1 July 2012 - 28 February 2013)

Meeting	Date	Location	Minister	Treasury Officials	Treasury Officials costs	
<i>Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting (FEMM)</i>	<i>2 - 4 Jul 2012</i>	<i>Kiribati</i>	<i>Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation, The Hon. Bernie Ripoll</i>	<i>x 2</i>	<i>air meals</i>	<i>\$10,101 \$360</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$206</i>
<i>Business delegation to China</i>	<i>11 - 15 Jul 2012</i>	<i>Beijing, China</i>	<i>Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP</i>	<i>x 4</i>	<i>air meals</i>	<i>\$15,858 \$1,634</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$1,506</i>
<i>APEC Finance Ministers Meeting</i>	<i>30 Aug 2012</i>	<i>Moscow, Russian Fed</i>	<i>The Hon Penny Wong, representing The Hon. Wayne Swan</i>	<i>x 2</i>	<i>air meals</i>	<i>\$13,960 \$1,880</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$3,738</i>
<i>IMF/ World Bank Annual Meetings</i>	<i>12 - 14 Oct 2012</i>	<i>Tokyo, Japan</i>	<i>Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP</i>	<i>x 4</i>	<i>air meals</i>	<i>\$22,836 \$5,472</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$16,214</i>
<i>East Asia Summit Finance Minister's Meeting</i>	<i>13 Oct 2012</i>	<i>Tokyo, Japan</i>	<i>Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP</i>	<i>x 1</i>	<i>air meals</i>	<i>no additional cost included above</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	
<i>Asia-Europe Finance Ministers' Meeting</i>	<i>14 - 15 Oct 2012</i>	<i>Bangkok, Thailand</i>	<i>Assistant Treasurer, Hon David Bradbury</i>	<i>x 1</i>	<i>air meals</i>	<i>\$1,210 \$541</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$666</i>
<i>G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting</i>	<i>4 - 5 Nov 2012</i>	<i>Mexico City, Mexico</i>	<i>Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP</i>	<i>x 6</i>	<i>air meals</i>	<i>\$46,871.07 \$3,040.84</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$8,279.87</i>

Meeting	Date	Location	Minister	Treasury Officials	Treasury Officials costs	
<i>Bilateral Consultations</i>	<i>6 - 7 Nov 2012</i>	<i>Washington, USA</i>	<i>Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP</i>	<i>x 2</i>	<i>air</i>	<i>\$5,298.65</i>
					<i>meals</i>	<i>\$209.35</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$749.25</i>
<i>Bilateral Meetings</i>	<i>10 - 13 Dec 2012</i>	<i>New Delhi, India</i>	<i>Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP</i>	<i>x 2</i>	<i>air</i>	<i>\$5,222.75</i>
					<i>meals</i>	<i>\$218.35</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$817.93</i>
<i>**Australia Israel UK Leadership Forum</i>	<i>16 - 22 Dec 2012</i>	<i>London, United Kingdom</i>	<i>Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation, The Hon. Bernie Ripoll</i>	<i>x 1</i>	<i>air</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
					<i>meals</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Asian Financial Forum</i>	<i>14 - 15 Jan 2013</i>	<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	<i>Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP</i>	<i>x 1</i>	<i>air</i>	<i>\$1,457.81</i>
					<i>meals</i>	<i>\$270.61</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$779.44</i>
<i>G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting</i>	<i>15 - 16 Feb 2013</i>	<i>Moscow, Russian Fed</i>	<i>Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP</i>	<i>x 9</i>	<i>air</i>	<i>\$66,047.95</i>
					<i>meals</i>	<i>\$9,400.98</i>
					<i>accomm</i>	<i>\$24,962.61</i>

*Meals and incidentals also include other travel expenditure (such as ground transport) ** Supported by Treasury person at post, therefore no costs incurred*

255.

Domestic Flight expenditure 1/7/2012 to 28/2/2013 exclusive of GST	\$694,337
Domestic WoAG and TMC Charges	\$21,708
International Flight expenditure 1/7/2012 to 28/2/2013 No GST applicable	\$1,033,880
International WoAG and TMC Charges	\$18,172
Travel Allowance	
Total Domestic Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation, TA, Part Day TA)	\$376,980
Total International Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation and TA)	\$304,466
Note: Alcohol, gifts and entertainment are not paid to staff and are not included in these figures	

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided in relation to class of travel. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Travel was undertaken to meet business operational requirements.

256. Travel will be undertaken to meet operational business requirements for the remainder of the financial year.
257. Travel will be undertaken to meet operational business requirements for the remainder of the calendar year.
258. Yes, through monthly Travel Management Company reports.
259. SES employees have an entitlement to airline lounge membership. Non SES employees are able to access lounge membership subject to appropriate approval on the basis of frequency of travel in accordance with the CEIs. This is reviewed on an annual basis. Cost for period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 - \$ 11,686.
260. Two support/administrative staff travelled with SES employees from 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013. Support staff were required to provide support at the Tri-Treasury Delegation in Sydney 12-14 December 2012.
Total costs \$ 1,782.90
261. No, the WoAG fares do not include a component for the purchase of Carbon Offsets / Carbon Credits.