

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

Question: AET 845-852

Topic: Travel Costs

Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

845. 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).
846. 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.
847. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
848. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
849. 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.
850. 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.
851. 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.
852. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees' work-related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

845. Nil.

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

846. The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meeting with taxpayers and Australian Taxation Office (ATO) staff throughout Australia. Total domestic flight expenditure for the financial year to date as at 22 February 2013 is \$33,324. Total international flight expenditure for the financial year to date as at 22 February 2013 is \$9,087. The agency's travel is arranged by the Department of Treasury under a service level agreement. The Treasury advised that its reporting system is unable to break down classes of travel. As at 22 February 2013, total travel allowance expenditure for domestic is \$9,886 and international \$3,711. Whole-of-Australian-Government (WoAG) and Travel Management charges for the financial year to date is \$830.
847. The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meeting with taxpayers and ATO staff throughout Australia. Travel to effect these duties is therefore expected.
848. Refer to response in question 847.
849. Yes. By the Chief Executive's Instructions. The Treasury as service level provider has advised that monitoring is via monthly Travel Management Company reports.
850. The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meetings with taxpayers and ATO staff throughout Australia. Accordingly, lounge membership is provided to six executive level employees and the total cost is \$1,095.
851. No.
852. No, WoAG fares do not include a component for the purchase of Carbon Offsets/Carbon Credits.