

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: SBT 1228-1234

Topic: Travel Costs (PC)

Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1228. For the financial year to date (26 October 2012), 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 include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
1229. For the financial year to date (26 October 2012), please 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).
1230. 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.
1231. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
1232. When SES employees travel, do any support or 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 the support staff travel.
1233. For 2011-12, 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 include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
1234. For 2011-12, please 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).

Answer:

1228. Nil.

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1229.

Category	Amount (GST exclusive)
Domestic Travel Allowances	\$67,433
Domestic Airfares	\$145,672
Domestic Accommodation	\$22,097
Domestic Other Travel Costs	\$4,252
International Travel Allowances	\$7,332
International Airfares	\$35,750
International Accommodation	\$5,324
International Other Travel Costs	\$1,198
Airline Booking Fee	\$2,784
Whole of Government (WOG) Booking Fees	\$934
2012-13 Financial Year to Date (26 October 2012) Total	\$292,776

Senior employees are entitled to Business class travel within Australia as part of their terms and conditions of employment. Staff are entitled to Business class when travelling internationally. To attempt to provide a greater level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.

1230. Yes, the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel guidelines are being followed. This is monitored on a trip by trip basis by the delegate who approves the travel.

1231. Yes, one lounge membership is available to senior employees who are frequent travellers as part of their terms and conditions of employment. As at 26 October 2012, there are 18 Qantas Lounge memberships. The cost of an annual membership at 26 October 2012 was \$238 (GST Incl).

1232. No.

1233. Nil.

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1234.

Category	Amount (GST exclusive)
Domestic Travel Allowances	\$170,077
Domestic Airfares	\$593,762
Domestic Accommodation	\$81,332
Domestic Other Travel Costs	\$152,876
International Travel Allowances	\$30,969
International Airfares	\$152,390
International Accommodation	\$16,628
International Other Travel Costs	\$4,200
Airline Booking Fee	\$11,075
Whole of Government (WOG) Booking Fees	\$3,547
2011-12 Financial Year Total	\$1,216,856