

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

**Question: SBT 1242-1248**

**Topic: Travel Costs (APRA)**

**Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

1242. 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).
1243. 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).
1244. 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.
1245. 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.
1246. 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.
1247. 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).
1248. 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).

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**Answer:**

1242. Not applicable.

1243. For the financial year to 26 October 2012, the details of all air travel by APRA officers is as follows:

Class	Number of trips	Cost \$
First	10	\$28,695
Business	537	\$658,943
Economy	769	\$157,424
Provider booking fee		\$24,470
Department of Finance and Deregulation fee		\$3,086
Total		\$872,618

Extracting the cost of accommodation, meals and other incidentals would require a substantial diversion of APRA's resources as the data sources are not in a form that makes this readily available.

1244. APRA utilises the Government's centralised airline booking service to secure 'best fare of the day'. This may or may not incorporate direct routes when travelling and is monitored by monthly reports from the provider.

1245. Yes. Qantas and/or Virgin airline lounge memberships are provided to APRA staff that regularly travel interstate and internationally on APRA business to assist in their productivity while out of the office. For the financial year to 26 October 2012, the total cost of lounge memberships was \$8,410.

1246. No.

1247. The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA's) Deputy Chair participated in Minister Shorten's mission to Israel and meetings with regulators in April 2012. The estimated cost was \$18,000.

1248. For the financial year 2011-12, the details of all air travel by APRA officers is as follows:

Class	Number of trips	Cost \$
First	57	\$163,833
Business	1187	\$1,484,122
Economy	1858	\$307,730
Provider booking fee		\$57,284
Department of Finance and Deregulation fee		\$7,604
Total		\$2,020,572

Extracting the cost of accommodation, meals and other incidentals would require a substantial diversion of APRA's resources as the data sources are not in a form that makes this readily available.