

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: SBT 1256-1262

Topic: Travel Costs (ABS)

Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1256. 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).
1257. 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).
1258. 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.
1259. 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.
1260. 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.
1261. 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).
1262. 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:

1256. Not Applicable.
1257. The total cost of all travel related expenditure for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 October 2012 was \$6,284,599 (exclusive of GST).

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1258. All travel is incurred for business purposes and is undertaken on the basis of efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of Commonwealth resources. With respect to air travel, the Australian Bureau of Statistics undertakes this travel in line with the whole of Australian Government air travel policy to seek out the lowest practical fare.
1259. Yes. Lounge memberships for business purposes are provided to employees who qualify under the ABS Enterprise Agreement 2011-14.
1260. Administrative support staff do not accompany SES staff whilst travelling.
1261. Not Applicable.
1262. The total cost of all travel related expenditure for period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was \$25,984,129 (exclusive of GST).