

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

**Question: SBT 1277-1283**

**Topic: Travel Costs (IGT)**

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

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

1277. 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).
1278. 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).
1279. 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.
1280. 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.
1281. 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.
1282. 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).
1283. 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:**

1277. As at 31 October 2012, nil. Not applicable.
1278. 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 staff throughout Australia. Total domestic flight expenditure for the financial year to

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date as at 31 October 2012 is \$20,276. Total international flight expenditure for the financial year to date as at 31 October 2012 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 31 October 2012, total travel allowance expenditure for domestic is \$4,401 and international \$1,605. Whole of Government Arrangement and Travel Management charges for the financial year to date as at 31 October 2012 is \$425.

1279. Yes.

- a. By the Chief Executive's Instructions.
- b. The Treasury as service level provider has advised that monitoring is via monthly Travel Management Company reports.
- c. Not applicable.

1280. The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meetings with taxpayers and Australian Taxation Office staff throughout Australia. Accordingly, lounge membership is provided to six executive level employees. As at 31 October 2012, total cost \$1,095.

1281. No. Not applicable.

1282. Nil. Not applicable.

1283. 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 staff throughout Australia. Total domestic flight expenditure for 2011-12 was \$53,152. Total international flight expenditure was \$17,562. 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. Total travel allowance expenditure for domestic was \$20,779 and international \$9,633. Whole of Government Arrangement and Travel Management charges total \$1,657.