## Senate Community Affairs Committee

## ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-388

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: COMMUNITY CABINETS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this Financial Year to Date?
- b) How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel?
- c) How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel?
- d) What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office?

## Answer:

a) Ministerial and ministerial staff travel costs for Community Cabinet meetings are paid through the Department of Finance and Deregulation. At the time of writing, information was not yet available for the Palmerston Community Cabinet meeting.

The total cost of Ministers and their staff attendance at Community Cabinet meetings for the 2010-11 financial year was \$24,378.21.

These figures include airfares and Travelling Allowance claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge) or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence).

A Schedule of Special Purpose Flights is produced periodically by the Department of Defence covering a six month period, and is tabled in the Federal Parliament.

Ministers, and their staff, often conduct official business additional to Community Cabinet meetings while at a Community Cabinet location. It is not possible to disaggregate the effects of such other business on the costs listed in this answer.

Community Cabinet Meeting	Ministerial Costs			
Location and Date	(Travel and associated expenses)			
	Roxon	Butler	Snowdon	King
Brisbane – Redcliffe - 2 December 2010	\$1,506.88	Nil	Nil	Nil
Perth – Beaconsfield - 30 March 2011	\$2,977.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Adelaide – Modbury - 19 May 2011	\$3,371.90	Nil	Nil	Nil
Darwin – Palmerston - 29 June 2011	Nil	Nil	\$891.23	\$885.45

b)

Community Cabinet Meeting	Ministerial Staff Costs			
Location and Date	(Travel and associated expenses)			
	Roxon	Butler	Snowdon	King
	staff	staff	staff	staff
Brisbane – Redcliffe - 2 December 2010	\$2,507.87	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(2 staff)			
Perth – Beaconsfield - 30 March 2011	\$3,714.59	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(2 staff)			
Adelaide – Modbury - 19 May 2011	\$5,637.27	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(2 staff)			
Darwin – Palmerston - 29 June 2011	Nil	Nil	\$1,563.23	\$1,322.79
			(1 staff)	(1 staff)

c)

Community Cabinet Meeting	No of	Departmental Staff Costs
Location and Date	Departmental	(Travel and associated expenses)
	staff	
Brisbane – Redcliffe - 2 December 2010	1	\$1,874.87
Perth – Beaconsfield - 30 March 2011	1	\$3,627.42
Adelaide – Modbury - 19 May 2011	1	\$1,907.60
Darwin – Palmerston - 29 June 2011	2	\$1,846.53

d) The total cost to the Department of attendance at Community Cabinet meetings for the 2010-11 financial year was \$9,256.42.