

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-415

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: TRAVEL COSTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include what sum was spent on travel, accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment and all other expenses.
- b) For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- c) For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.

Answer:

- a) Costs of official travel by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). Information about destinations and the cost of travel undertaken is tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*. The report also includes car transport costs as advised by other Departments in respect of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Finance website.

It is not possible to individually report on all the separate items requested in the question. Costs for domestic accommodation, food and incidental expenses are met by individual travellers from domestic travelling allowances paid at a daily rate. Finance does not meet the cost of security, gifts or entertainment.

- b) Costs of official travel by any accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are also included in the report tabled in the Parliament every six months titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Finance website.

It is also not possible to individually report on all the separate items requested in the question as costs are met by individual travellers from domestic travelling allowances paid as a daily rate. Finance does not meet the cost of security, gifts or entertainment.

- c) It is not possible to individually report on all the separate items requested in the question as costs are met by individual travellers from domestic travelling allowances paid as a daily rate. The Department of Health and Ageing does not meet the cost of security, gifts or entertainment.

The breakdown of costs spent by Departmental officers accompanying the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary is as follows:

Minister Roxon:

Flights \$3552 Accommodation \$311 Travel allowance \$282.05 Total: \$4145.05

Minister Snowdon:

Flights \$1714.17 Accommodation \$318 Travel allowance \$453.75 Total: \$2485.92

Minister Butler:

Nil

Parliamentary Secretary King:

Nil