

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 338

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs – Ministerial

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. From 7 September 2013, detail all travel conducted by the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary
 - a. List each location, method of travel, itinerary and purpose of trip;
 - b. List the total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals), and;
 - c. List the number of staff that accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary, listing the total costs per staff member, the class of airplane travelled, the classification of staff accompanying the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary.
2. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

1.
 - a. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, travelled to San Francisco, USA from 13-17 January 2014. The main purpose of this visit was to attend the Australian American Leadership Dialogue.
 - b. Costs of Official Travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and any accompanying ministerial staff are the responsibility of the Department of Finance.
 - c. The Parliamentary Secretary was not accompanied by any member of his staff.
2. As at 31 January 2014, the Minister for Communications has in-principle approval from the Prime Minister for the following international travel:
 - i) United Kingdom and Switzerland, 30 April to 10 May 2014 TBC: The Minister proposes to conduct high level meetings with Government Officials and industry stakeholders in London, prior to attending the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - ii) Auckland, New Zealand 7-9 July 2014 (dates to be confirmed): The Minister will attend the Korea-Australia-New Zealand (KANZ) Broadband Summit. Attendance plays an important role in building cooperation between the three countries on broadband policy.

As at 31 January 2014, the Parliamentary Secretary had no international travel planned for the remainder of the calendar year.