

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome *Cross Portfolio*

DEEWR Question No. EW783_09

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

Question

Ministerial travel

Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates? If so, where was the travel and what was the duration?

What was the total cost of:

- a) travel
- b) accommodation, and
- c) any other expenses?

Answer

Administration related to staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act), including payment of costs associated with overseas travel, is the responsibility of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that the Hon Julia Gillard MP has twice travelled overseas on official business since the Budget Estimates hearing.

From 13 June to 14 June 2008 the Minister travelled to New Zealand on a hosted visit. The other expenses associated with the Minister's travel are \$126.

From 21 June to 5 July 2008 the Minister travelled to the USA, United Kingdom and Singapore. The total costs associated with the travel are estimated as follows:

- a) \$22,757.27
- b) \$11,333.12
- c) \$12,910.83

The Hon Maxine McKew MP travelled to Peru on official business for the Minister of Education from 8 June to 14 June 2008. Formal advice regarding costs associated with the Parliamentary Secretary's overseas travel can be sought from the Department of Finance and Deregulation.