

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome Corporate

DEEWR Question No. EW811_10

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

Question

Ministerial Travel

How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary [on overseas official business since Budget Estimates]?

For these staff/family what was the cost of:

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

Answer

The Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) has advised DEEWR that since the 2009 Budget Estimates the Hon Julia Gillard MP has been accompanied on her three official trips overseas.

- From 17 to 28 June 2009, one family member and two MOP(S) Act employees accompanied the Minister to the USA and Israel.
- From 29 August to 4 September 2009, three MOP(S) Act employees accompanied the Minister to India.
- From 3 to 12 October 2009, two MOP(S) Act employees accompanied the Minister to the USA.

Costs associated with the Ministers travel to the USA and Israel are as follows:

- (a) \$61,668.22
- (b) \$3,559.59
- (c) \$1,659.60

Costs of official overseas travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, accompanying spouses (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 are paid for by Finance. Finance has advised that expenditure for the two overseas visits to India and the USA since Budget Estimates has not yet been reconciled. Dates, destinations, the purpose and costs of all official overseas travel are tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled Parliamentarians' Travel Paid By The Department of Finance and Deregulation. These reports are now also published to the Finance web site.

Finance also advises that there has been no travel of MOP(S) Act employees for other portfolio Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries since the 2009 Budget Estimates.