

Question on notice no. 63

Portfolio question number: SQ23-004813

2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

Senator Susan McDonald: asked the Civil Aviation Safety Authority on 23 October 2023—

Senator McDONALD: One of the first parts of the annual report was that CASA supported DAME training in Fiji from April to May of 2023, with funding support from DFAT, to sponsor six doctors from PNG, three from Fiji and one from Tonga to participate in the DAME training. What was the cost of that training in the Pacific?

Ms Spence: That's usually met by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as part of the broader Pacific engagement, so I'd have to take that on notice. It may actually be better directed towards the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Answer —

Please find answer attached

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023 - 2024

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 63

Departmental Question Number: SQ23-004813

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 142 (23 October 2023)

Topic: CASA - Cost of DAME Training in the Pacific

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Ms Spence: That's usually met by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as part of the broader Pacific engagement, so I'd have to take that on notice. It may actually be better directed towards the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Answer:

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) receives funding from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) aid programs to provide technical advice and assistance in the Asia-Pacific. The Pacific Designated Aviation Medical Examiner (DAME) training referred to in CASA's 2022-2023 Annual Report (p.104) took place from 29 April to 7 May 2023 in Fiji.

CASA arranged support through two DFAT mechanisms:

- a Grant Agreement between CASA and DFAT under the Pacific Aviation Support Program; and
- the Transport Sector Support Program (TSSP), a bilateral program between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

The cost of the training to DFAT was approximately \$138,620. This covered registration, travel and accommodation, comprising:

- AUD 49,857.08 cost recovery to CASA under the Grant Agreement;
- AUD 58,293.42 cost recovery to CASA under TSSP; and
- PGK 73,314.50 under TSSP for travel arrangements booked locally in PNG.

Under DFAT programs, CASA provides its administrative and technical support in-kind. CASA does not recover staffing costs and met these costs through business-as-usual arrangements, comprising:

- staff support from the Legal, International and Regulatory Affairs Division to manage DFAT funding, monitoring and evaluation;

- staff support from the Stakeholder Engagement Division to arrange and deliver the training in consultation with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ASAM); and
- staff salaries for the time above, plus salary allowances for professional development which one staff member chose to use to fund their participation in the DAME training.