

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-309

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: PLAIN PACKAGING LEGISLATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

I refer to an article in The Australian Financial Review dated 14 December 2011 entitled Roxon keen to make big tobacco pay. In relation to the visit of US anti-tobacco campaigner Matthew Myers' visit to Australia, please advise:

- a) Did the Commonwealth pay for Mr Myers to travel to Australia?
- b) If so, what was the total cost to the Commonwealth of this visit? Please also provide a breakdown.
- c) The program for the visit including who organised it.
- d) When did the Commonwealth issue the invitation to Mr Myers?
- e) When were the arrangements made for the visit?

Answer:

a) to e)

Following meetings with Mr Myers at the United Nations High-level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases in New York in September 2011, the then Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, invited Mr Myers to visit Australia in December 2011. Arrangements for Mr Myers' visit were made during November and December 2011. The program for Mr Myers' visit was organised the Minister's office. The program for Mr Myers' visit was as follows:

Monday 12 December 2011 – Melbourne

Mr Myers attended an event hosted by the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer with the then Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon. Nicola Roxon MP. Mr Myers also met with members of the Australian Government tobacco legal team.

Tuesday 13 December 2011 – Sydney

Mr Myers participated in a seminar hosted by Professor Simon Chapman at Sydney University. Mr Myers also participated in a press conference with the then Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP. Mr Myers participated in a range of radio interviews throughout the day.

Wednesday 14 December 2011 – Adelaide

Mr Myers met with the South Australian Health Minister, the Hon John Hill MHA.

The total cost of Mr Myers' visit was approximately \$24,000.00 including international airfares, domestic airfares, accommodation, catering and incidental costs.

The airfare and accommodation costs were:

- International airfares: \$19,933.46
- Domestic airfares: \$2,032.92
- Accommodation: \$1,624.00

Other costs incurred included:

- Catering: \$270.20
- Incidental costs: \$250.00