

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-110

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Community Cabinet Meetings

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 3

Senator: Senator McKenzie

Question:

- a) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?
- b) How many Community Cabinet meetings has each Minister attended? List date and location.
- c) How many Ministerial Staff travelled with each Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Ministerial Staff attend? List date and location.
- d) How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Ministers for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodation and any other expenses?
- e) Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location. What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

Answer:

a and b)

Ministerial and ministerial staff travel costs for Community Cabinet meetings are paid through the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Ministers, and their staff, often conduct official business additional to Community Cabinet meetings while at a Community Cabinet location. It is not possible to disaggregate the effects of such other business on the costs listed in this answer.

The total cost of Ministers' travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings for the 2011-12 financial year was \$8,015.67.

Community Cabinet Meeting Location and Date	Ministerial Costs (Travel and associated expenses)			
	Roxon/*Plibersek	Butler	Snowdon	King
Yeronga (QLD) - 1 September 2011	\$ 1,671.25	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kingston (TAS) - 3 October 2011	\$ 354.00	\$ 354.00	Nil	Nil
Werribee (VIC) - 9 November 2011	\$ 952.74	\$ 2,721.45	Nil	Nil
*Parramatta (NSW) - 4 April 2012	\$ 626.69	Nil	Nil	Nil
*Berwick (VIC) - 16 May 2012	\$ 1,335.54	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total cost (2011-12)	\$ 4,940.22	\$ 3,075.45	Nil	Nil

- c) The number of ministerial staff who travelled with the Minister(s) ranged from one to two officers. The total cost of Ministerial staff travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings for the financial year 2011-12 was \$9,861.87.

Community Cabinet Meeting Location and Date	Ministerial Staff Costs (Travel and associated expenses)			
	Roxon/*Plibersek staff	Butler staff	Snowdon staff	King staff
Yeronga (QLD) - 1 September 2011	\$ 3,892.14 (2 staff)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kingston (TAS) - 3 October 2011	\$ 1,563.38 (2 staff)	\$ 1,856.89 (2 staff)	Nil	Nil
Werribee (VIC) - 9 November 2011	Nil (2 staff)	\$ 828.06 (1 staff)	Nil	Nil
*Parramatta (NSW) - 4 April 2012	\$ 552.84 (1 staff)	Nil	Nil	Nil
*Berwick (VIC) - 16 May 2012	\$ 1,168.56 (1 staff)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total cost (2011-12)	\$ 7,176.92	\$ 2,684.95	Nil	Nil

d) and e)

The total cost of Department of Health and Ageing officer attendance at Community Cabinet meetings for 2011-12 was \$4,786.02

Community Cabinet Meeting Location and Date	No of Departmental staff	Departmental Staff Costs (Travel and associated expenses)
Yeronga (QLD) - 1 September 2011	1	\$ 1,794.25
Kingston (TAS) - 3 October 2011	1	\$ 50.00
Werribee (VIC) - 9 November 2011	1	\$ 424.00
Parramatta (NSW) - 4 April 2012	1	\$ 1,064.75
Berwick (VIC) - 16 May 2012	1	\$ 1,453.02
Total cost (2011-12)		\$ 4,786.02

Details and costs of all Community Cabinet Meetings held this financial year to date are listed above. These figures include airfares and Travelling Allowance claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge) or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence).

A Schedule of Special Purpose Flights is produced periodically by the Department of Defence covering a six month period, and is tabled in the Federal Parliament.

The total cost to the Department and Ministers' offices for the 2011-12 Community Cabinet meetings was \$22,663.56.