

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014**

**Ref No: SQ14-000737**

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Travel Costs - Departmental Staff

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

1. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

1. The costs for travel for departmental officers accompanying the Minister/s since Additional Estimates in February to 31 May 2014 are \$1,075 for (airfares) and \$344 for (accommodation) and standard daily travel allowances.
2. For the period 1 March 2014 to 31 May 2014, the Department of Health, including Therapeutic Goods Administration Trust (TGA), Office of Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS), spent \$1,710 003 on travel expenses for its staff and external committee members.

<b>Type of expenditure</b> 1 March 2014 - 31 May 2014	<b>\$</b>
Airfares – domestic <sup>1</sup>	808,713
Airfares – international <sup>1</sup>	319,331
Taxi Fares (including Cabcharge) <sup>1</sup>	177,708
Accommodation, Travelling Allowance and Other Expenses <sup>1,2</sup>	404,251
<b>Total Domestic Travel Expenditure</b>	<b>1,710,003</b>

Notes:

1. The above figures include travel expenditure for the Department, National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment (NICNAS), Office of Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Due to the nature of the data, Committee travel expenses cannot be excluded.
2. Covers domestic and international expenses

Staff are required to travel extensively to administer, monitor and regulate the many health services provided to the Australian public. Travel expenses by TGA and NICNAS are industry cost recovered.

3. Planned travel (as pre-loaded into the Department's approval workflow system) for the period 1 July 2014 to 31 December totals \$177,998 at the time of responding. This figure will change over this period as bookings may be amended or cancelled before the travel date and other travellers will make new bookings.