

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-080

OUTCOME: 0 WHOLE OF PORTFOLIO

Topic: INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Hansard Page: CA 10

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) How long was the Minister in Paris?
- b) How long was the Minister's overseas trip?
- c) Did she only attend the OECD meeting in Paris?
- d) Details of the trip, such as what other meetings she attended?
- e) What were the costs?
- f) What were the travel costs?
- g) I would like a full breakdown of her trip.
- h) In so far as the Department of Health and Ageing is concerned, all details of trips Minister Roxon has taken since 2007.
- i) What embassy involvement was there in relation to this trip?

Answer:

- a) Minister Roxon was in Paris for five days, from 5–9 October 2010.
- b) Minister Roxon's overseas trip was eight days in length, from 5–12 October 2010.
- c) While in Paris, Minister Roxon Vice-Chaired the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Health Ministerial Meeting on 7–8 October 2010, and Chaired the Forum on Quality of Care on 7 October 2010. On 9 October 2010, Minister Roxon travelled to Putrajaya, Malaysia to attend the first day only of the 61st World Health Organization Regional Committee Meeting (WHO RCM) being held from 11-15 October 2010.
- d) While in Paris, Minister Roxon Vice-Chaired the OECD Ministerial Meeting, Chaired the Forum on Quality of Care and attended meetings over the period 5-8 October with:
  - Ambassador Christopher Langman, Permanent Representative to the OECD;
  - Mr John Martin, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Mr Stefano Scarpetta, Deputy Director and Mr Mark Pearson, Head, Health Division OECD;
  - Indonesian Minister of Health, Dr Endang Rahaya Sedyaningsh;

- Mr Bill Corr, Deputy Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services (HSH), Dr Nils Daulaire, Director, Office of Global Health Affairs, HSH and Dr Sherry Glied, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HSH;
- Mexican Minister of Health, Dr Jose Angel Cordova Villabos;
- Minister for Health and Social Services, Finland, Ms Paula Risikko;
- Minister for Health for Greece, Mr Andreas Loverdos; and
- UK Secretary of State for Health, Mr Andrew Lansley.

While in Malaysia, Minister Roxon attended the first day of the WHO RCM and attended meetings with:

- Malaysian Minister for Health, Dato' Seri Liow Tiong Lai;
  - Brunei Darussalam Minister for Health, Pehin Adanan;
  - Chinese Vice-Minister for Health, Yin Li;
  - Papua New Guinea Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, the Hon. Sasa Zibe MBE; and
  - Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) Regional Director, Dr Shin Young-Soo.
- e) All 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 the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD), and questions relating to these matters should be directed to that Department.
- f) Refer to response to question e).
- g) Refer to response to question e).
- h) Other than this trip, Minister Roxon has not travelled overseas on official business since 2007.
- i) The Australian Delegation to the OECD assisted in Paris and the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur assisted in Malaysia. Posts provided assistance with transport, accommodation, briefings and arrangement of bilateral meetings throughout the program.