

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-216

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: TRAVEL COSTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed a whole-of-government coordinated procurement arrangements for travel and related services.

- a) How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies? Please explain the changes that have occurred to your department and portfolio agencies in relation to its travel and related services.
- b) Is purchasing of travel and related services less expensive under the new arrangements?
- c) Is purchasing of travel and related services more efficient under the new arrangements?
- d) Have savings been achieved in your portfolio because of the new arrangements?
- e) How much did your department and portfolio agencies spend on travel in 2008-09, 2009-10 and to date this financial year?
- f) How have staff within your department and portfolio agencies found the new arrangements? For example is it more efficient to arrange travel?

Answer:

- a) Only the new airfare rates, which came into effect from 1 July 2010, have changed. The department is finalising its Travel Management Company (TMC) arrangements, under the new Whole of Australian Government (WoAG) contract. The portfolio agencies are at various stages of tendering for, or implementing, the new TMC arrangements.
- b) As the department and portfolio agencies are still in the process of implementing the new WoAG arrangements, the overall impact on travel related costs cannot be determined at this stage.
- c) As the department and portfolio agencies are still in the process of implementing the new WoAG arrangements, the overall impact on travel processes cannot be determined at this stage.
- d) At this stage, until the new WoAG travel arrangements are fully implemented, the overall impact on travel related costs cannot be determined.

- e) The total travel related expenditure for the department and its portfolio agencies is as follows:
1. 2008-09: \$22.3 million
  2. 2009-10: \$20.0 million
  3. YTD 2010-11: \$6.5 million
- f) Most staff have not yet been affected by any of the WoAG changes.