

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-041

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: COMMUNITY CABINETS

Written Question on Notice

Senator McKenzie asked:

- a) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?
- b) How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel?
- c) How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel?
- d) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?

Answer:

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

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.

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 at Community Cabinet meetings for the 2011-12 financial year to date is \$2,379.25. (This amount excludes the costs associated to the Werribee Community Cabinet of 9 November 2011 which are not yet available).

Community Cabinet Meeting Location and Date	Ministerial Costs (Travel and associated expenses)			
	Roxon	Butler	Snowdon	King
Yeronga (QLD) – 1 September 2011	\$1,671.25	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kingston (TAS) – 3 October 2011	\$354	\$354	Nil	Nil
Werribee (VIC) – 9 November 2011	Not available	Not available	Nil	Not available

- b) The total cost of Ministerial staff travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings for the 2011-12 financial year to date is \$4,869.52.

Community Cabinet Meeting Location and Date	Ministerial Staff Costs (Travel and associated expenses)			
	Roxon staff	Butler staff	Snowdon staff	King staff
Yeronga (QLD) – 1 September 2011	\$2,392 (2 staff)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kingston (TAS) – 3 October 2011	\$1,563.38 (2 staff)	\$914.14 (1 staff)	Nil	Nil
Werribee (VIC) – 9 November 2011	Not available	Not available	Nil	Not available

- c) The total cost of Departmental officers' travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings for the 2011-12 financial year to date is \$1,844.15.

Community Cabinet Meeting Location and Date	No of Departmental staff	Departmental Staff Costs (Travel and associated expenses)
Yeronga (QLD) – 1 September 2011	1	\$1,794.15
Kingston (TAS) – 3 October 2011	1	\$50
Werribee (VIC) – 9 November 2011	1	Not available

- d) The total cost to the Department of attendance at Community Cabinet meetings, (excluding the costs associated to the Werribee Community Cabinet of 9 November 2011) for the 2011-12 financial year to date is \$1,844.15. Ministerial and ministerial staff travel costs for Community Cabinet meetings are paid through the Department of Finance and Deregulation.