

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Travel Costs – 2011-12

Question reference number: HS 104

Senator: Boyce

Type of question: Written question

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) For 2011-12, please 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).
- b) For 2011-12, please 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).

Answer:

- a) In the course of our business, Departmental officers and the Minister may attend the same event. Travel records do not record whether travel includes attending any events that the Minister has also attended.
- b) Expenditure for staff travel for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was \$21,345,068 (GST inclusive), noting that this includes domestic and international air travel, bus, sea, rail, air charter travel, and travel management and administrative fees.

The expenditure for travel for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was:

- \$17,902,009 for domestic economy class travel;
- \$2,117,851 for domestic business class travel;
- \$209,634 for international travel; and
- \$1,115,574 for travel related fees.

Total expenditure on staff accommodation for official business travel for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was \$14,551,366 (GST inclusive). This expenditure represents close to all departmental accommodation expenditure, but excludes a small proportion of travel where commercial accommodation cannot be provided (often due to the remoteness of the location) and accommodation is sourced through the employee's own arrangements and therefore funded through allowances.

Other travel-related costs cannot be separately itemised. Under the Department of Human Services Agreement, allowances for meals and incidentals are made as a single payment to the traveller.