

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 365

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel costs – Departmental

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. From 7 September 2013, 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.
2. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

1. The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

For the period 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014, the total travel expense for Departmental officers was \$0.319m (GST excl) for domestic travel and \$0.098m (GST excl) for international travel. The Department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow individual components of travel to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

2. The Department does not record travel related planning data in a way that would readily allow the identification of travel plans for the rest of this calendar year. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.