

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 679

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Since 25 February 2014, 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).
2. Since 25 February 2014, 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). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

1. Departmental officers travel domestically for a variety of reasons. The travel records do not allow the Department to determine with accuracy which travel was to accompany the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary. With regard to international travel, no departmental officers have accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on any overseas trip for the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014.
2. For the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 the total expense for departmental officers was \$0.224m (GST excl) for domestic travel and \$0.112m (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.
3. 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 financial year. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.