

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australia Post**

**Question No: 370**

**Program No: Australia Post**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Travel costs - department**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. Is the minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
2. If so, under what policy?
3. Provide a copy of that policy.
4. When was this policy implemented?
5. List all occurrences of travel that this has occurred under.
6. Detail the process.
7. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
8. Detail all travel (domestic and international) 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).
9. 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.
10. What date was the minister or their office was notified of the travel?
11. What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
12. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

1-7. No.

8. No Australia Post officers have accompanied the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel since 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014.

9-12. Australia Post spent a total of \$2.6m on air travel and \$2.1m on accommodation for business-related purposes from 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014. The specific details sought about travel / future travel across the entire corporation are not captured on any central database. As such, Australia Post is not in a position to provide the information requested.