

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014
Communications Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 526

Program No. Special Broadcasting Service

Hansard Ref: Hansard In writing

Topic: Travel costs - departmental

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?
What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer

1. No – not applicable for Corporate Commonwealth Agencies
- 2 -8 Not applicable
9. Total cost for SBS travel in the period 1 May to 31 October 2014 was \$2,876,688. This includes fares, travel allowance and accommodation.

A further breakdown is not available as SBS does not record this information in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided without involving an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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Travel is arranged according to operational requirements and all travel is approved by the relevant delegate. Many trips are related to breaking news and current affairs stories and are impossible to predict in advance.

10. N/A
11. The Minister does not approve SBS Travel. As stated in the answer to question 9, travel is arranged according to operational requirements. Many trips are related to breaking news and current affairs stories and are impossible to predict in advance.