

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

Question No: 639

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

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?

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

Answer:

1. The ABC is an independent agency established under the ABC Act and CAC Act (and now the PGPA). Ministerial approval is not required for travel.
2. Not applicable. See answer (1) above.
3. Not applicable. See answer (1) above.
4. Not applicable. See answer (1) above.
5. Not applicable. See answer (1) above.
6. Not applicable. See answer (1) above.

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7. Not applicable. See answer (1) above.
8. Not applicable. See answer (1) above.
9. The ABC approves travel requests as appropriate to meet the operational requirements of the Corporation, particularly in relation to newsgathering and content production. Details of travel expenditure is as follows:

Description	July - Nov Actual 14/15
Airfares - Domestic	1,696,132
Allowances - Domestic	1,051,342
Accommodation - Domestic	1,065,697
Domestic taxis and pva	1,094,028
Travel Entitlements (9/B/4) under the Enterprise Agreement	53,628
Domestic Other (eg train fares and car Hire)	340,278
Total Domestic Travel Expenditure	5,301,105
Airfares - International	744,815
Allowances - International	1,030,347
International Other (eg train fares and car Hire)	384,173
Total International Travel Expenditure	2,159,335
Excess Baggage	53,377
Total Other	53,377
Total ABC Travel Expenditure	7,513,817

10. Not applicable. See answer (1) above.

11. Not applicable. See answer (1) above.

Not applicable. The ABC does not keep a register of its future travel requirements.