

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Additional Estimates
2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: IGT
Question: AET 2091-2100
Topic: Travel costs - department
Reference: Written - 19 February 2016
Senator: Ludwig, Joe & Wong, Penny

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

2091. Is the minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?

2092. If so, under what policy?

2093. Provide a copy of that policy.

2094. When was this policy implemented?

2095. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?

2096. 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).

2097. 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.

2098. What date was the minister or their office notified of the travel?

2099. What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?

2100. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

2091. **No. Ministerial approval is not required for agency international travel.**

2092. **The relevant Inspector-General of Taxation (IGT) delegate approves international travel.**

2093. **Refer to <http://www.finance.gov.au/procurement/travel-and-related-services/> for the appropriate policy that guides IGT's international travel.**

2094. **The Official International Travel policy was implemented 10 February 2015 and the Official Domestic Air Travel policy was implemented July 2014.**

2095. **Not applicable under current policies.**

2096. **Not applicable.**

2097. **The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meeting with taxpayers and Australian Taxation Office (ATO) staff throughout Australia. Total domestic flight expenditure for the period 1 September 2015 to 29 February 2016 is \$22,321 and total travel allowance expenditure is \$9,968. Total international flight expenditure for the period 1 September 2015 to 29 February 2016 is \$7,854 and total travel allowance expenditure is 4,068. The agency's travel is arranged by the Department of Treasury under a service level agreement. The Treasury has advised that its reporting system is unable to break down classes of travel. Whole-of-Australian-Government (WoAG) and Travel Management charges for the period between 1 September 2015 to 29 February 2016 is \$1,218.**

2098. **Not applicable.**

2099. **Not applicable.**

2100. **The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meeting with taxpayers and ATO staff throughout Australia. Travel to effect these duties is therefore expected and conducted as required.**