

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

Question: BET 1003-1007

Topic: Travel Costs (APRA)

Hansard Page: Written (received from Committee – 13 June 2012)

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1003. For the financial year to date, please 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).
1004. For the financial year to date, 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).
1005. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed?
How is this monitored?
If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
1006. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees?
If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
1007. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them?
If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

Answer:

1003. The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority's (APRA's) Deputy Chair participated in Minister Shorten's mission to Israel and meetings with regulators in April 2012. The estimated cost was \$18,000.

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1004. See response to BET 192-201 which provides estimates of total cost of overseas travel over the last three years.

For the financial year to 30 June 2012, the details of all domestic air travel by APRA officers is as follows:

Class	Number of trips	Cost \$
Business	597	354,616
Economy	1,870	623,259
Provider booking fee	-	13,979
Department of Finance and Deregulation fee	-	4,899
Total	2,467	996,753

Extracting the cost of accommodation, meals and other incidentals would require a substantial diversion of APRA's resources as the data sources are not in a form that makes this readily available.

1005. APRA utilises the Government's centralised airline booking service to secure 'best fare of the day'. This may or may not incorporate direct routes when travelling and is monitored by monthly reports from the provider.
1006. Yes. Qantas and/or Virgin airline lounge memberships are provided to APRA staff that regularly travel interstate and internationally on APRA business to assist in their productivity while out of the office. For the financial year to 30 June 2012, the total cost of lounge memberships was \$12,652 and the average cost of membership per employee was \$275
1007. No.