

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

Question: BET 1013-1017

Topic: Travel Costs (IGT)

Hansard Page: Written (Received from Committee - 13 June 2012)

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1013. 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).
1014. 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).
1015. 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.
1016. 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.
1017. 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:

1013. As at 31 May 2012, nil.
1014. The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meeting with taxpayers and Australian Taxation Officers throughout Australia. Total domestic flight expenditure for the financial year to date is \$49,451. Total international flight expenditure for the financial year to date is \$8,667. The agency's travel is arranged by the Department of Treasury under a service level agreement. Treasury advised that its reporting system is unable to break down classes of travel. As at 31 May 2012, total travel allowance expenditure for domestic is \$15,401 and international \$5,386.

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1015. Yes. The Department of Treasury as service level provider has advised that monitoring is via monthly Travel Management Company reports.
1016. The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meetings with taxpayers and Australian Taxation Officers throughout Australia. Accordingly, lounge membership is provided to four executive level employees. As at 31 May 2012, the cost is \$2,318.
1017. No.