

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

Question: BET 1023-1027

Topic: Travel Costs (PC)

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

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1023. 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).
1024. 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).
1025. 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.
1026. 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.
1027. 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.

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Answer:

1023. Nil.

1024.

Category	Amount (GST exclusive)
Domestic Travel Allowances	\$162,375
Domestic Airfares	\$512,225
Domestic Accommodation	\$76,937
Domestic Other Travel Costs	\$132,597
International Travel Allowances	\$27,882
International Airfares	\$113,482
International Accommodation	\$14,921
International Other Travel Costs	\$2,263
Airline Booking Fee	\$9,397
Whole of Government (WOG) Booking Fees	\$3,046
2011-12 Financial Year to Date (31 May 2012) Total	\$1,055,125

Senior employees are entitled to Business class travel within Australia as part of their terms and conditions of employment. Staff are entitled to Business class when travelling internationally. To attempt to provide a greater level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.

1025. Yes, the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel guidelines are being followed. This is monitored on a trip by trip basis by the delegate who approves the travel.
1026. Yes, one lounge membership is available to senior employees who are frequent travellers as part of their terms and conditions of employment. As at 31 May 2012, there were 18 Qantas Lounge memberships. The cost of an annual membership at 31 May 2012 was \$255 (GST Incl).
1027. No.