

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

Question: BET 993-997

Topic: Travel Costs (ABS)

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

Senator BUSHBY asked:

993. 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).
994. 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).
995. 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.
996. 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.
997. 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:

993. No travel was undertaken by Departmental officers to accompany the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012.
994. The total cost of all travel related expenditure for the Australian Bureau of Statistics for period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 was \$23,867,388 (exclusive of GST).
995. All travel is incurred for business purposes and is undertaken on the basis of efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of Commonwealth resources. With respect to air travel, the Australian Bureau of Statistics undertakes this travel in line with the whole of Australian Government air travel policy to seek out the lowest practical fare.

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996. Yes. Lounge memberships for business purposes are provided to employees who qualify under the ABS Enterprise Agreement 2011-14.
997. Administrative support staff do not accompany SES staff whilst travelling.