

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

**Question: BET 998-1002**

**Topic: Travel Costs (ACCC)**

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

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

998. 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).
999. 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).
1000. 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.
1001. 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.
1002. 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:**

998. Nil.

999. The following answer relates to the financial year to date (1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012).

| Airfare costs                           | 2011-12 FYTD \$ |
|---|-----------------|
| Airfares - Domestic Economy             | 949 653         |
| Airfares - Domestic Business Class      | 976 311         |
| Airfares - International Economy        | 79 773          |
| Airfares - International Business Class | 292 710         |
| Total airfare costs                     | 2 298 447       |

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| Other travel costs  | 2011-12 FYTD \$ |
| Accommodation   | 885 482         |
| Travel allowance - Domestic                               | 549 296         |
| Travel allowance - International (food and accommodation) | 112 042         |
| Total other travel costs                                  | 1 546 820       |

1000. Yes, compliance with Lowest Practical Fare policy is monitored by monthly analysis of Travel Management Company compliance reports.
1001. Yes. The ACCC pays the lounge memberships for 10 SES employees and 2 non-SES employees. Membership has been provided in cases where staff are required to undertake significant travel. Memberships are to QANTAS or Virgin lounges. Total annual cost is \$3 300.
1002. No.