

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

Question: BET 1155-1162

Topic: Travel Costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1155. 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 includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
1156. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that includes airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
1157. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
1158. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
1159. What is the policy for business class airfare tickets? Is there still a reduction in business flights as per the media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State dated 25 September 2012?
1160. 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.
1161. 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.
1162. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

1155. Nil.
1156. The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meeting with taxpayers and Australian Taxation

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Office (ATO) staff throughout Australia. Total domestic flight expenditure for the financial year to date as at 31 May 2013 is \$49,499. Total international flight expenditure for the financial year to date as at 31 May 2013 is \$9,087. The agency's travel is arranged by the Department of Treasury under a service level agreement. The Treasury advised that its reporting system is unable to break down classes of travel. As at 31 May 2013, total travel allowance expenditure for domestic is \$15,886 and international \$3,711. Whole-of-Australian-Government (WoAG) and Travel Management charges for the financial year to date is \$1,146.

1157. The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meeting with taxpayers and ATO staff throughout Australia. Travel to effect these duties is therefore expected.
1158. Refer to response in question 1157.
1159. The Chief Executive's Instructions place restrictions on business class travel. The agency will achieve savings over the forward estimates.
1160. The agency has national responsibility and operates out of a single office location. In conducting reviews, fieldwork involves meetings with taxpayers and ATO staff throughout Australia. Accordingly, lounge membership is provided to six executive level employees and the total cost is \$1,095.
1161. No.
1162. No, WoAG fares do not include a component for the purchase of Carbon Offsets/Carbon Credits.