

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

Question: BET 1365-1372

Topic: Travel Costs

Written: 17 June 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1365. 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).
1366. 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.
1367. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
1368. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
1369. 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?
1370. 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.
1371. 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.
1372. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

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Answer:

1365. Nil.

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Category	Amount (GST exclusive)
Domestic Travel Allowances	\$153,044
Domestic Airfares	\$455,401
Domestic Accommodation	\$77,292
Domestic Other Travel Costs	\$11,059
International Travel Allowances	\$25,919
International Airfares	\$176,311
International Accommodation	\$21,387
International Other Travel Costs	\$5,619
Airline Booking Fee	\$9,673
Whole of Government (WOG) Booking Fees	\$3,047
Total	\$938,752

The Commission does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided in relation to class of travel. To attempt to provide a greater level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.

Travel was undertaken to meet business operational requirements.

1367-68. Planned travel is undertaken and approved by the delegate on a trip by trip basis.

1369. Statutory office holders have an entitlement to business class travel under a Determination made by the Remuneration Tribunal; SES employees may travel business class depending on circumstances with a judgment being made on a trip by trip basis; non-SES employees travel economy class.

1370. 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 2013, there are 19 Qantas Lounge memberships. The cost of an annual membership at 31 May 2013 was \$250 (GST exclusive).

1371. No.

1372. No.