

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

Question: BET 735-742

Topic: Travel Costs

Written: 17 June 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

735. 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).
736. 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.
737. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year*? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
738. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
739. 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?
740. 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.
741. 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.
742. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

**Financial year to date – 31 May 2013*

Answer:

735. Officers from Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) do not accompany the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel.

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736. For the financial year to 31 May 2013, the details of all air travel by officers of APRA is as follows:

Class	No of Trips	Cost \$
First	12	\$98,539
Business	522	\$1,269,809
Premium Economy	2	\$4,977
Economy	850	\$258,921
Provider booking fee		\$55,059
Department of Finance and Deregulation fee		\$6,674
Total	1,386	\$1,693,979

Travel relates to APRA's prudential regulation and supervision activities. Extracting the cost of accommodation, meals and other incidentals would require a substantial diversion of APRA's resources as the data sources are not in a form that makes this readily available.

737. Travel planned for the remainder of this financial year relates to APRA's prudential regulation and supervision activities. Provision of expected travel information is not readily available and would require a substantial diversion of APRA's resources to compile.
738. Refer to question 737 above.
739. APRA's policy for business class airfare is dependent on the terms of employment. The number of business flights will depend on APRA's operational requirements. APRA utilises the Government's centralised airline booking service to secure 'best fare of the day'. APRA's travel costs for the year 2012/13 have reduced compared to 2011/12.
740. Yes. Qantas and/or Virgin airline lounge memberships are provided to APRA staff that regularly travel interstate and internationally on APRA business to assist in their productivity while out of the office. For the financial year to 31 May 2013, the total cost of lounge memberships was \$14,150. There are 74 current APRA staff members with airline lounge memberships.
741. No.
742. No.