

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

**Division/Agency:** Small Business and Consumer Policy Division

**Question No:** 263

**Topic:** Small Business Roadshow

**Reference:** Hansard page 84-85 (30 May 2017)

**Senator:** Gallagher, Katy

**Question:**

Senator GALLAGHER: Do you attend the roadshows?

Mr Boneham: No.

Senator GALLAGHER: Interesting. Who pays for them?

Mr Boneham: I think you will need to confirm that with the minister's office. We are going to take that on notice. My understanding is that the ACCC, the ATO and the ombudsman will pay for their airfares. I think that was confirmed today by the ATO—

Senator GALLAGHER: I think they took it on notice.

Mr Boneham: when they said that they try to send their staff members around the general area to cut down costs. I imagine that the issue for the small business minister's office is coming out of his budget.

Senator Cormann: The Small Business Roadshow is, of course, a policy forum designed to provide assistance and support to small business. It is a very valuable platform for the minister and agencies to gain feedback and ideas to inform the policymaking process.

Senator GALLAGHER: Yes. What do you mean when you say, 'His budget'? Is there a separate ministerial budget for hire venue costs?

Mr Boneham: I will take that on notice, but we are not involved in funding any of that expenditure.

Senator GALLAGHER: So you do not print any of the materials?

Mr Boneham: No, I do not think we have been asked to print any of those either.

Senator GALLAGHER: It is an unusual arrangement, isn't it? They are promoted as official government forums with government public servants there.

Senator Cormann: Well, they are.

Senator GALLAGHER: I am just interested in the administrative unit that supports the work.

Senator Cormann: If you want to get further details on the administrative arrangements, we have already indicated that we will provide that information on notice. It is an official government event. It is a policy development forum.

**Answer:**

The Minister uses his Ministerial Travel Allowance (TA) to pay for his travel and accommodation while touring on the Small Business Roadshow.

Venue costs are typically provided free of charge. For some events, venue costs will be paid for by the host Member or Senator using their electorate allowance. A limited number of attendees were charged a small at cost fee which was paid to the venue.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO), the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (ASBFEO) all meet their own travel costs from existing travel budgets within their agencies.

Treasury does not print any materials for the events.