Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: **SBT 1221-1227**

Topic: **Travel Costs - Treasury**

Written: **Received from Committee – 26 October 2012**

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1221. For the financial year to date (26 October 2012), 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).

1222. For the financial year to date (26 October 2012), 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).

1223. 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?

    a. How is the department/agency following the advice?

    b. How is this monitored?

    c. If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.

1224. 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.

1225. 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.

1226. For 2011-12, 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).

1227. For 2011-12, 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).

Answer:

1221. For the financial year to date to 31 October 2012:

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FYTD Travel Costs – Departmental Officers that accompanied Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary (1 July 2012 -31 October 2012)

Meeting	Date	Location	Minister	Treasury Officials	Treasury Officials costs	
Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting (FEMM)	2 - 4 Jul 2012	Kiribati	Parliamentary Secretary, The Hon Bernie Ripoll	x 2	air meals & incidentals accommodation	$10,101 $360 $206
Business delegation to China	11 – 15 Jul 2012	Beijing, China	Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP	x 3	air meals & incidentals accommodation	$15,858 $1,634 $1,506
APEC Finance Ministers Meeting	30-August-2012	Moscow, Russian Fed	The Hon Penny Wong represented the Treasury portfolio on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer	x 2	air meals & incidentals accommodation	$13,960 $1,880 $3,738
IMF/ World Bank Annual Meetings	12 - 14 Oct 2012	Tokyo, Japan	Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP	x 5	air meals & incidentals accommodation	$22,836 $5,472 $16,214
EAS FMM	13 October 2012	Tokyo, Japan	Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP	x 1	air meals & incidentals accommodation	no additional cost included above
Asia-Europe Finance Ministers' Meeting	14 - 15 Oct 2012	Bangkok, Thailand	Parliamentary Secretary, The Hon. David Bradbury MP	x 1	air meals & incidentals accommodation	$1,210 $541 $666

Meals and incidentals also include other travel expenditure (such as ground transport)

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1222. For the financial year to date to 31 October 2012:

Domestic Flight expenditure 1/7/2012 to 31/10/2012 excl of GST	$435,282
Domestic WoAG and TMC Charges	$ 11,443
International Flight expenditure 1/7/2012 to 31/10/2012 No GST applicable	$ 439,264
International WoAG and TMC Charges	$ 8,882
Travel Allowance	
Total Domestic Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation,TA, Part Day TA)	$ 123,617
Total International Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation and TA) Note: Alcohol, gifts and entertainment are not paid to staff and are not included in these figures	$ 117,509

The department 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 this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

1223. Yes, through monthly Travel Management Company reports.

1224. SES employees have an entitlement to airline lounge membership. Non SES employees are able to access lounge membership subject to appropriate approval on the basis of frequency of travel in accordance with the CEIs. This is reviewed on an annual basis. Cost for period 1/7/2012to 31/10/2012 $ 3,059

1225. No support or administrative staff travelled with SES employees from 1 July 2012 to 31 October 2012.

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1226.

FY 2011-2012– Departmental Officers that accompanied Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary

Meeting	Date	Location	Minister	Treasury Officials	Treasury Officials costs	
Australia New Zealand Annual Bilateral Ministerial Meeting with Minister English	14-Jul-11	Wellington, New Zealand	Minister Swan	x 2	air meals accom	$4,261 $170 $631
Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting (FEMM)	19 - 21 Jul 2011	Apia, Samoa Parliamentary	Parliamentary Secretary Bradbury	x 3	air meals accom	$4,068 $1,870 $2,801
Regional Consultations	29 Aug - 1 Sep 211	Hong Kong & Guangzhou, China	Minister Swan	x 1	air meals accom	$5,595 $621 $1,447
G20 Finance and Development/IMF & World Bank Annual Meetings/NY visit	23 - 27 Sep 2011	Washington, USA	Minister Swan	x 3	air meals accom	$49,230 $2,358 $9,608
G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting & London visit	14 - 17 Oct 2011	Paris, France & London UK	Minister Swan	x 3	air meals accom	$26,373 $2,907 $7,480
APEC Finance Ministers Meeting	10 November 2011	Honolulu, USA	Minister Swan	x 2	air meals accom	$16,843 $1,274 $2,674

FY 2011-2012– Departmental Officers that accompanied Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary (cont.)						
Meeting	**Date**	**Location**	**Minister**	**Treasury Officials**	**Treasury Officials costs**	
Delhi Economic Conclave	14 - 17 December 2011	New Delhi, India	Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP	x 1	air meals accom	$8,071 $352 $1,340
IMF World Bank Spring meetings / G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governor's Meeting	20 - 21 Apr 2012	Washington	Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, The Hon. Wayne Swan MP	x 4	air meals accom	$31,738 $3,190 $9,608
Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting	1 - 5 May 2012	Manila, Philippines	Parliamentary Secretary, The Hon Bernie Ripoll	x 2	air meals accom	$9,564 $698 $1,529

1227. For 2011-12:

Domestic Flight expenditure 1/7/2011 to 30/06/2011 excl of GST	$ 1,592,179
Domestic WoAG and TMC Charges	$ 40,148
International Flight expenditure 1/7/2012 to 31/10/2012 No GST applicable	$1,589,378
International WoAG and TMC Charges	$ 28,485
Travel Allowance	
Total Domestic Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation,TA, Part Day TA	$ 647,380
Total International Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation and TA) Note: Alcohol, gifts and entertainment are not paid to staff and are not included in these figures	$ 629,890

The department 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 this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.