

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT352-359

Topic: Travel Costs

Written: 25 November 2013

Senators LUDWIG and WONG asked:

352. 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 include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
353. For the financial year to date, 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). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
354. What travel is planned for the rest of from 7 September 2013? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
355. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
356. What is the policy for business class airfare tickets?
357. 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.
358. 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.
359. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

352. Not Applicable.
353. The total cost of all travel related expenditure for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 November 2013 was \$4,645,035 (exclusive of GST). The travel has been undertaken to meet a range of work program objectives including the development of the Population Census and delivery of the household survey program.
354. The travel to be undertaken for the rest of this financial year will be essential to effectively meeting program objectives including engagement on the 2016 Population Census and broader statistical work program.
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356. Non-SES employees are not permitted to travel business class on domestic routes. SES employees are strongly encouraged to only travel business class on domestic routes which are over three hours in duration. All ABS employees engaged in international travel are permitted to travel Business Class with the exception of flights to New Zealand. This policy has seen 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.
357. Yes. Lounge memberships for business purposes are provided to employees who qualify under the ABS Enterprise Agreement 2011-14. The total cost of Lounge Memberships for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 November 2013 was \$15,930 (exclusive of GST).
358. Administrative support staff do not accompany SES staff whilst travelling.
359. No.