

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

**Question: SBT 416-423**

**Topic: Travel Costs**

**Written: 25 November 2013**

**Senators LUDWIG and WONG asked:**

416. 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).
417. 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.
418. What travel is planned for the rest of from 7 September 2013? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
419. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
420. What is the policy for business class airfare tickets?
421. 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.
422. 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.
423. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

*To date - 30 November 2013.*

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**Answer:**

416. Nil.

417.

Category	Amount (GST exclusive)
Domestic Travel Allowances	\$22,866
Domestic Airfares	\$70,461
Domestic Accommodation	\$5,324
Domestic Other Travel Costs	\$9,793
International Travel Allowances	\$4,407
International Airfares	\$24,161
International Accommodation	\$1,018
International Other Travel Costs	\$1,046
Airline Booking Fee	\$1,518
Whole of Government (WOG) Booking Fees	\$439
Taxi Charges	\$19,846
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$160,879</b>

The Commission does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided in relation to type of airfare. 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.

418-419. Planned travel is undertaken and approved by the delegate on a trip by trip basis.

420. Statutory office holders have an entitlement to business class travel under a Determination made by the Remuneration Tribunal, but may choose a lower class fare; SES employees generally fly economy class, but may travel business class depending on circumstances with a judgment being made on a trip by trip basis; non-SES employees travel economy class.

421. Yes, one lounge membership is available to senior employees who are frequent travellers as part of their terms and conditions of employment. As at 30 November 2013, there are 19 Qantas Lounge memberships. The cost of an annual membership 30 November 2013 was \$355 (GST inclusive).

422. No.

423. No.