

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates**

**2014 - 2015**

**Department/Agency: ABS**

**Question: SBT627-632**

**Topic: Travel costs - department**

**Reference: Written - 30 October 2014**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

**Question:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

627. Is the minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
- a) If so, under what policy?
  - b) Provide a copy of that policy.
  - c) When was this policy implemented?
628. List all occurrences of travel that this has occurred under A. Detail the process.
629. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
630. Detail all travel (domestic and international) 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).
631. 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.
- a) What date was the minister or their office was notified of the travel?
  - b) What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
632. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

627. No.
628. N/A.
629. N/A.
630. Nil.
631. The total cost of all travel related expenditure for the period 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014 was \$4,991,744 (exclusive of GST). The travel has been undertaken to meet a range of Statistical work programme objectives including the development of the 2016 Census of Population and Housing and delivery of the household survey program.

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**ABS Travel Expenses: 1 June to 31 October 2014**

Airfares	\$1,142,898
Travel Allowance (TA)	\$745,889
Accommodation	\$816,664
Taxi charges	\$254,605
Self-Drive vehicles and other transport hire	\$84,009
Interviewer airfares, TA and self-drive vehicles	\$1,845,329
Other travel costs	\$102,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,991,744</b>

- a) N/A.
- b) N/A.
632. The travel to be undertaken for the rest of this financial year will be essential to effectively meeting the ABS work program which includes the preparation and development of the 2016 Census of Population and Housing and the ongoing production of outputs on a range of economic, social and environmental statistics.