

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: ACCC

Question: SBT 901-906

Topic: Travel costs - department

Reference: written - 30 October 2014

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

901. Is the minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
- If so, under what policy?
 - Provide a copy of that policy.
 - When was this policy implemented?
902. List all occurrences of travel that this has occurred under.A. Detail the process.
903. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
904. 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).
905. 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.
- What date was the minister or their office was notified of the travel?
 - What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
906. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

901. No. Ministerial approval is required for travel where the total cost for all delegates exceeds \$20,000.
902. The Minister's office was required to approve travel on two occasions since the Budget Estimates in June 2014.
- One Commissioner and two ACCC staff members travelled to two separate events in Europe. Commissioner Court and Executive General Manager Enforcement Competition Marcus Bezzi attended an American Bar Association event in Rome after which Marcus Bezzi joined Commissioner Walker in Paris to attend OECD Competition Committee meetings. As Marcus Bezzi attended both events and the total cost of the travel for all three staff exceeded \$20 000 and approval from the minister's office was sought.
 - One Commissioner and two ACCC staff members attended the 2014 International Competition Network Annual Conference in Marrakech. As the ACCC is hosting

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the 2015 ICN Conference it was considered important to have appropriate representation at the preceding event.

903. The minister is notified once ACCC internal approval processes are completed. Approval has been provided within 2-3 weeks of submission to the Minister's office

904. Nil

905. Total Travel Cost

Airfare:	\$ 270 680
Other:	\$ 308 444
Total:	\$ 579 124

DOMESTIC - Travel Cost Breakdown

Travel Type	Cost
Accommodation	\$ 126 117
Airfares	\$ 204 727 (Economy class) \$ 16 299 (Business class)
Travel Allowance	\$ 133 301
Total	\$ 480 444

INTERNATIONAL – Travel Cost Breakdown

Travel Type	Cost
Travel Allowance (includes accommodation)	\$ 47 831
Airfares	\$ 22 327 (Economy class) \$ 28 522 (Business class)
Total	\$ 98 680

The reason for travel is the transportation of ACCC Officers, management and staff to business meetings and events.

a) Not applicable.

b) Refer to SBT903.

906. The ACCC's planned travel expenditure for the remainder of the 2014 calendar year is outlined in the table below.

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Planned Travel Spend	Remainder 2014 Calendar Year
Domestic Airfares	\$ 269 130
International Airfares	\$ 84 606
Domestic Travel Allowance	\$ 5 549
Overseas Travel Allowance	Not calculated
Domestic Accommodation	\$ 117 044

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