

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: ABS

Question: 1005-1010

Topic: Travel

Reference: written - 30 October 2015

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

Since 1 January 2015:

1005. 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?

1006. List all occurrences of travel that this has occurred under 1. Detail the process.

1007. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?

1008. 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).

1009. 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?

1010. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

1005. From 1 January to 9 February 2015 the approval of overseas travel was made in accordance with guidance issued by the Department of Finance. The policy required ministerial approval for international travel greater than \$20,000. From 9 February 2015 ministerial approval was no longer required. The relevant ABS delegate approved international from this time. Refer to <http://www.finance.gov.au/procurement/travel-and-related-services/> for the appropriate policy that guides Treasury's international travel.

1006. Not applicable.

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1007. Not applicable

1008. Not applicable

1009. The total cost of all travel related expenditure for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 October 2015 was \$12,219,077 (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.

ABS Travel Expenses: 1 January to 31 October 2015

Airfares	\$2,576,656
Travel Allowance (TA)	\$1,721,862
Accommodation	\$1,664,675
Taxi charges	\$381,633
Self-Drive vehicles and other transport hire	\$131,667
Interviewer airfares, TA and self-drive vehicles	\$5,028,006
Other travel costs	\$714,578
Total	\$12,219,077

a) Not applicable.

b) Not applicable.

1010. 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.