

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: SBT 1860-1865

Topic: Travel

Reference: written - 30 October 2015

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

1860. 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?
1861. List all occurrences of travel that this has occurred under 1. Detail the process.
1862. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
1863. 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).
1864. 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?
1865. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

1860. No. From 24 February 2015, the whole of Government official international travel policy was amended. As a result agency heads or their delegates can approve all international travel in accordance with their own internal policy.
1861. Not applicable.
1862. Not applicable.
1863. From 1 January to 31 October 2015 no Departmental Officers accompanied the Minister or their Parliamentary Secretary on their travel.
1864. From 1 January to 31 October 2015 ATO expenditure for travel related costs (Australian Business Register, Tax Practitioners Board and Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission) was \$30.73 million (GST exclusive).

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A breakdown of this expenditure is provided in Table 2 below. Table 3 provides a breakdown of airfare expenditure by class. Further breakdown of this information would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Table 2: Travel related expenditure 1 January to 31 October 2015

Travel expenditure by category	1 Jan 15 to 31 Oct 15 (\$m)
Air travel	\$12.38
Travel Allowance Payments*	\$12.71
Taxi Fares	\$3.36
Fleet Costs	\$1.78
Other Incidental Travel Costs	\$0.50
TOTAL	\$30.73

*Travel allowance includes \$3.45 million for SES and EL2 accommodation.

Table 3: Airfare expenditure 1 January to 31 October 2015

Airfares Expenditure by class	Economy (\$m)	Business (\$m)	First Class (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Domestic	\$7.77	\$3.88	\$0.00	\$11.65
International	\$0.16	\$0.57	\$0.01	\$0.74
Total	\$7.93	\$4.45	\$0.01	\$12.38

The ATO is a large organisation with offices around Australia and over 80 per cent of its staff located outside of Canberra. The need for the ATO to connect with staff, the community, businesses and tax professionals spread across the country necessitates official travel by employees in the course of their ordinary duties.

- a) Not applicable
- b) Not applicable

1865. The ATO is unable to quantify or provide itemised data specifically related to what travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year.