

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: SBT 303-308

Topic: Travel

Reference: written - 30 October 2015

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

Travel

Since 1 January 2015:

303 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?

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

305 When is the minister notified, when is approval provided?

306 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).

307 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 notified of the travel?
- b) What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?

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

Answer:

303. 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 treasury 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.

304. One trip required ministerial approval.

305. Ministerial approval was obtained on 22 January 2015.

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306. Treasury Travel Costs Departmental Officers accompanying Ministers (1 January 2015 - 31 October 2015)

		Meeting	Date	Location	Minister	Treasury Officials	Treasury Officials costs	
1		Asian Financial Forum	19-20 Jan	Hong Kong, China	Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg	x 1	air meals accomm other	\$1,943.18 \$379.42 \$1,529.25 \$136.70
2		World Economic Forum Annual Meeting	21-24 Jan	Davos-Klosters, Switzerland	Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg	NIL	air meals accomm other	\$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00
3		Bilateral Meetings	25-26 Jan	London, United Kingdom	Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg	x 1	air meals accomm other	\$0.00 \$913.91 \$0.00 \$0.00
4		On behalf of PM 90th anniversary liberation of Auschwitz prison	27-28 Jan	Warsaw, Poland	Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg	NIL	air meals accomm other	\$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00
5		Bilateral Meetings	11-14 Apr	New York, USA	Treasurer, the Hon Joe Hockey MP	x 1	Train meals accomm other	\$579.50 \$1,669.87 \$4,325.43 \$0.00
6		International Monetary Fund / World Bank Annual Meetings	17-19 Apr	Washington, USA	Treasurer, the Hon Joe Hockey MP	x 5	air meals accomm other	\$25,875.48 \$2,438.43 \$17,459.25 \$873.79

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	Meeting	Date	Location	Minister	Treasury Officials	Treasury Officials costs	
7	Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting	2-5 May	Baku, Azerbaijan	The Hon Michael McCormack on behalf of the Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg	x 2	air meals accomm other	\$17,169.72 \$1,076.59 \$3,178.39 \$360.06
8	FSC Delegation	8-11 June	Tokyo, Japan	Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg	NIL	air meals accomm other	\$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00
9	FSC Delegation	11-12 June	Seoul, Republic of Korea	Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg	NIL	air meals accomm other	\$17,169.72 \$1,076.59 \$3,178.39 \$360.06
10	Signing of AIIB Ceremony	28-30 Jun	Beijing, China	Treasurer, the Hon Joe Hockey MP	x 3	air meals accomm other	\$8,867.63 \$662.93 \$1,721.51 \$121.48
11	G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting	4 - 5 Sep 2015	Ankara, Turkey	Treasurer, the Hon Joe Hockey MP	x 4	air meals accomm other	\$20,811.54 \$1,642.88 \$6,435.47 \$717.58
12	APEC Finance Ministers Meeting	10 - 11 Sep 2015	Cebu, Philippines	The Hon Mathias Cormann on behalf of The Hon Joe Hockey	x3	air meals accomm other	\$10,116.95 \$754.05 \$5,328.44 \$390.91

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Meeting	Date	Location	Minister	Treasury Officials	Treasury Officials costs	
13 G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and IMF / World Bank Annual Meetings	8 - 11 Oct 2015	Lima, Peru	The Hon Mathias Cormann on behalf of The Hon Scott Morrison MP	x5	air meals accomm other	\$35,819.57 \$2,341.10 \$8,618.96 \$849.95

Other includes incidentals and other travel expenditure (such as ground transport meals)

Meeting 3 - Supported by Treasury officer from London post

Meeting 5 - Supported by Treasury Officer from Washington post

Meeting 6 - Airfares for 4 travellers additional officer from post

Meeting 10 - Airfares for 1 traveller only additional officers from post

Meeting 11 - Supported by 1 Treasury Officer from London plus 3 from Australia - post costs not included

Meeting 12 - Supported by 1 Treasury Officer from Indonesia Post plus 2 from Australia - post costs not included

Meeting 13 - Supported by 2 Treasury Officers from Washington plus 3 from Australia - post costs not included

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Domestic Flight expenditure 1/1/2015 to 31/10/2015 exclusive of GST	\$960,784
International Flight expenditure 1/1/2015 to 31/10/2015 No GST applicable	\$1,303,258
Travel Allowance -1/1/2015 to 31/10/2015	
Total Domestic Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation, TA, Part Day TA)	\$ 719,824
Total International Travel Allowance Expenditure (Accommodation and TA) Note: Alcohol, gifts and entertainment are not paid to staff and are not included in these figures	\$511,964

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided in relation to class of travel. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. Travel was undertaken to meet business operational requirements.

308. Travel will be undertaken to meet operational business requirements for the remainder of the calendar year.