

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: ACCC

Question: SBT 664-669

Topic: Travel

Reference: written - 30 October 2015

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

Travel

Since 1 January 2015:

664. 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?
665. List all occurrences of travel that this has occurred under 1. Detail the process.
666. When is the minister notified, when is approval provided?
667. 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).
668. 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?
669. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

664. 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 2 March 2015 ministerial approval was no longer required for the Department of Treasury and portfolio agencies whose travel had previously been approved by the Treasurer. Refer to <http://www.finance.gov.au/procurement/travel-and-related-services/> for the appropriate policy that guides Treasury's international travel. However the ACCC understands that this change was not also implemented by the Minister for Small Business and so has continued to submit for approval all travel greater than \$20,000.
665. Ministerial approval was sought on six occasions during the period 1 January 2015 to 31 October 2015.

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

- a) International Consumer Protection Enforcement Network – Annual Meeting, held Åre, Sweden on 13-17 April 2015. Commissioner Delia Rickard; Scott Gregson Executive General Manager, Consumer Enforcement; and Joe-Anne Riddiford, Assistant Director Strategy, Intelligence, International and Advocacy attended.
- b) World Forum on Energy Regulation, held Istanbul, Turkey 25-28 May 2015. ACCC Commissioner Cristina Cifuentes; AER Chair Paula Conboy; and Sarah Proudfoot General Manager Retail (AER) attended.
- c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Competition Committee), held Paris, France, 15-19 June 2015. ACCC Commissioner Jill Walker; Bruce Cooper, General Manager Strategy, Intelligence, International and Advocacy; and Jennifer Orr, Principal Economist within the ACCC's Economic Group attended.
- d) International Consumer Protection Enforcement Network – Best Practice Workshop, held Manchester, England 13-15 October 2015. ICPEN Group of Five (US, Canada, New Zealand, UK and Australia) meeting, held Manchester, England 16 October 2015. Study visit to UK Competition and Markets Authority, held London, England 19 October 2015. Meeting with UK Groceries Adjudicator, held London, England 19 October 2015. Elizabeth Jennings, Director, Enforcement Queensland; and Ben Morawetz, Assistant Director, Enforcement Victoria and Tasmania attended.
- e) International Competition Network – Cartel Workshop, held Cartagena, Colombia 18-21 October 2015. Marcus Bezzi, Executive General Manager, Competition Enforcement; Rob Ghali General Manager Serious Cartels Group and Enforcement Operations New South Wales; and Jane Lin Director Serious Cartels Group attended.
- f) Organisation for Economic Development (Competition Committee), held Paris, France, 26-30 October 2015. ACCC Commissioner Jill Walker; and Paul Taylor, Specialist Adviser, Strategy, Intelligence, International and Advocacy attended.

Prior to seeking Ministerial approval under Finance Circular 2013/06, ACCC staff prepared a formal request to travel for consideration by the Accountable Authority (Chairman Rod Sims). This request sets out the details of the proposed travel with a cost/benefit analysis to assist in the Chairman's considerations.

Following completion of the internal approval process, a minute was provided to the Minister for consideration, setting out the details of the travel request and seeking the Minister's approval.

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

666. The Minister was notified once ACCC internal approval processes was completed at least 6 weeks prior to the proposed travel. Approval has been provided within 2-4 weeks of submission to the Minister's office.
667. Not applicable.
668. Total travel cost for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 October 2015 is outlined below:

Airfare: \$ 1 363 242 (*includes business class total of \$ 395,947*)

Other: \$ 1 268 124

Total: \$ 2 631 366

DOMESTIC - Travel Cost Breakdown

Travel Type	Cost
Accommodation	\$ 569 156
Airfares	\$ 932 314 (<i>includes business class total of \$ 119 116</i>)
Travel Allowance	\$ 487 274
Total	\$ 1 988 745

INTERNATIONAL – Travel Cost Breakdown

Travel Type	Cost
Travel Allowance (includes accommodation)	\$ 211 693
Airfares	\$ 430 928 (<i>includes business class total of \$ 276 831</i>)
Total	\$ 642 621

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

- a) Refer to responses provided in 664-666.
b) Refer to responses provided in 664-666.

669. The ACCC's planned travel expenditure for the remainder of the 2015 calendar year is outlined below:

Planned Travel Spend	Remainder 2015 Calendar Year
Domestic Airfares	\$ 100 000
International Airfares	\$ 63 900

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

Domestic Travel Allowance	\$ 16 500
International Travel Allowance	\$ 19 700
Domestic Accommodation	\$ 64 000
International Accommodation	\$ 14 600

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