

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: ARC

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000335

Senator Ludwig, Joe provided in writing.

ARC: Travel costs - department

Question

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Is the minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
2. If so, under what policy?
3. Provide a copy of that policy.
4. When was this policy implemented?
5. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
6. 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).
7. 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.
8. What date was the minister or their office notified of the travel?
9. What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
10. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has provided the following response.

1. No, where the total estimated cost (GST inclusive) of international travel, either individually or for a delegation or group activity, is:
 - \$50,000 or less, the travel must be approved by the relevant accountable authority
 - more than \$50,000, the travel must be approved by the relevant Minister.
2. The ARC Accountable Authority Instruction (AAI)
3. Attached
4. Latest version of ARC AAls is June 2015
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. The ARC does not keep information in a format that would enable this question to be answered without an unnecessary diversion of entity resources.
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. ARC officials travel to various meeting venues as part of ordinary course of business.