

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: TEQSA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000337

Senator Ludwig, Joe provided in writing

TEQSA: 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 Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) has provided the following response.

1. No
- 2-6. Not applicable
7. Details on travel for agency officers for the period 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 is as follows.

	Domestic cost (GST exclusive)	Overseas Cost (GST exclusive)
Airfares	27,725	31,939
Accommodation	8041	9714
Meals	3026	4795
Travel allowance*	25,200	-
Other travel expenses	18,522	2301
Total cost	82,514	48,749

* This refers to allowance paid to TEQSA's part-time Commissioners under the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2015/11: Official Travel by Office Holders.

Travel is undertaken based on business requirements such as attending meetings and engagements with stakeholders, site visits to providers and attending training, conferences, seminars, etc.

8-9. Not applicable

10. The planned travel cost for the rest of this calendar year is \$250,000. The travel is for business requirements such as attending meetings, site visits to providers, stakeholder engagements and training/conferences.