

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000553

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWO - Travel costs

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

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.
5. Not applicable.
6. There have been no instances of Departmental officers accompanying the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel.

7. For the period 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016, the cost of travel has been \$1,219,742.74. The breakdown of expenses is: \$487,005.53 for airfares, \$283,782.21 on accommodation, \$154,938.76 on taxis and \$294,016.24 on meals, incidentals and other costs. To provide the further requested level of detail would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

8. There have been no instances of international travel requiring the Minister's approval in the period 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016.

9. Not applicable.

10. The Fair Work Ombudsman does not specifically budget or plan for individual travel. Travel is undertaken for a range of operational purposes, in accordance with the Fair Work Ombudsman's Travel Policy.