

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0021_14

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Community Cabinet Meetings - financial year to date

Provide an update of how many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended this financial year to date? List date and location. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

Answer

For the financial year to 31 May 2013, Portfolio Ministers attended eight Community Cabinet meetings.

For this period, one Departmental officer travelled with Portfolio Ministers for Community Cabinet meetings. The total cost was \$1,642.73. Travel was via air, with accommodation costs of \$304.50 and other costs of \$198.67.

In addition, one Departmental officer attended the Blaxland New South Wales Community Cabinet meeting. The total cost was \$491.70. Travel was via air, with no accommodation costs and other costs of \$237.91.

All other Community Cabinet meetings were attended by regional DEEWR staff at no cost.

DEEWR officers attended Community Cabinet meetings at Redbank Plains Queensland on 10 July 2012, Orelia Western Australia on 5 September 2012, Launceston Tasmania on 3 October 2012 Petrie Queensland on 14 November 2012, Aberfoyle South Australia on 20 February 2013, Thornlie Western Australia on 27 March 2013, Ringwood Victoria on 17 April 2013 and Blaxland New South Wales on 22 May 2013.

The total cost to DEEWR for Community Cabinet meetings for the financial year to 31 January 2013 is \$2,134.43. Costs of official travel by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and their staff are met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DOFD). Any questions regarding those costs or arrangements should be referred to DOFD.