

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Government Division

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 187

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What changes have been made to the role of the Prime Minister and Ministers in the approval of officials' travel?

Why were the arrangements changed?

Can the current arrangements be outlined?

Answer:

The Prime Minister had advised Ministers that it is no longer necessary to consult him on officials' overseas travel over \$50,000.

The Prime Minister considered that there had been improvements in efficiency in overseas travel by officials and significant cost savings as a result of Ministerial scrutiny.

The Department of Finance has updated the whole of government guidelines for officials' overseas travel accordingly (Resource Management Guide 405 -

<http://www.finance.gov.au/procurement/travel-and-related-services/travel-policies.html>).