

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
9 February 2016

Department/Agency: All
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Travel costs - department

Senator: Ludwig
Question reference number: F82
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 1 April 2016

Number of pages: 2

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:

1. No.
- 2-5. N/A.
6. Nil.
7. To attempt to provide the level of detail sought in the question on all travel for Departmental officers would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Travel costs for the Department of Finance for the period 14 September 2015 to 9 February 2016 are as follows:

Travel Cost Category	Amount
Accommodation	\$57,219.97 (GST inclusive)
Travel expenses (meals/incidentals)	\$43,775.26 (GST exclusive)
Flights (domestic and international)	\$412,743.00 (GST inclusive)

All travel is undertaken for official purposes only.

8.-9. N/A.

10. The Department does not maintain a calendar of planned travel. Travel will be undertaken on an as needs basis for official purposes only.