

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

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

Senator: Ludwig
Question reference number: F154
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 3

Question:

- a) Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel 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).
- b) Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, 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.
- c) What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

Department/ Agency	Response
Finance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finance officials travelled to Malabar Headland on 9 April 2014 to meet the Special Minister of State and apprise him and his advisor of the strategic and operational issues on the site. Four Finance officers attended the site visit. The total cost of this travel was \$1,096.96 including airfares, car hire and other travel expenses. No accommodation was involved. b) Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, Finance has spent \$385,000 on domestic and international official travel: airfares \$217,000; and accommodation, meals and incidentals \$168,000. All travel was undertaken to conduct Finance business in accordance with Finance Chief Executive Instruction (CEI) 2.3 Official Travel. c) Travel for the purposes of conducting business is planned for the rest of the financial year. Travel is undertaken on a needs basis where it represents the most efficient, effective and economic method of conducting our business.
Australian	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Nil.

Department/ Agency	Response																
Electoral Commission	<p>b) For the period 25 February to 31 May 2014:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="612 331 1217 680"> <thead> <tr> <th>Expense</th> <th>\$</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domestic Airfares</td> <td>491,633</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Domestic Accommodation</td> <td>605,591</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Domestic Travel Allowances</td> <td>308,914</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Airfares</td> <td>196,926</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Accommodation</td> <td>43,461</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Travel Allowances</td> <td>35,981</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1,682,506</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The AEC does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to the level of detail requested. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.</p> <p>A significant portion of travel during this period was due to the Griffith by-election and the WA Senate Election being conducted.</p> <p>c) Departmental travel will be focused on the WA Senate post-election activities.</p>	Expense	\$	Domestic Airfares	491,633	Domestic Accommodation	605,591	Domestic Travel Allowances	308,914	Overseas Airfares	196,926	Overseas Accommodation	43,461	Overseas Travel Allowances	35,981	Total	1,682,506
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ComSuper	<p>a) Nil.</p> <p>b) Travel is undertaken on a needs basis where it represents the most efficient, effective and economic method of conducting ComSuper's business. For the period 1 February 2014 to 31 May 2014, \$72,146 (GST exclusive) was spent on travel. A breakdown is provided below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="512 1149 1315 1525"> <thead> <tr> <th>Nature of expenditure</th> <th>1 February to 31 May 2014 (\$ (Excluding GST))</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Airfares</td> <td>21,447</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation</td> <td>13,115</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel allowance</td> <td>15,979</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cabs, fares, rental cars and associated costs</td> <td>21,605</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>72,146</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>c) Travel for the purposes of conducting business is planned for the rest of the financial year. Travel is undertaken on a needs basis where it represents the most efficient, effective and economic method of conducting our business.</p>	Nature of expenditure	1 February to 31 May 2014 (\$ (Excluding GST))	Airfares	21,447	Accommodation	13,115	Travel allowance	15,979	Cabs, fares, rental cars and associated costs	21,605	Total	72,146				
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Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	<p>a) NA</p> <p>b) For the period 25 February to 31 May 2014 \$290,748 was spent on travel. It is not possible to individually report on all items in the question as the type of fare purchased is determined by CSC policy and the cost for accommodation, food and incidental expenses are met by individual travellers from domestic or international travel allowances at a daily rate. Travel is for business purposes only.</p> <p>c) For the period 1 June to 31 December 2014 it is forecast that \$820,000 will be spent on travel. The purpose of the travel is for core operational activities undertaken by CSC and all travel is for business purposes only.</p>																

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Future Fund Management Agency	<p>a) None.</p> <p>b) For the period 25 February 2014 to 31 May 2014:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="507 383 1321 490"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="507 383 1015 421">Accommodation and meals</td> <td data-bbox="1015 383 1321 421">\$98,635</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="507 421 1015 459">Flights (domestic and international)</td> <td data-bbox="1015 421 1321 459">\$399,675</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="507 459 1015 490">Taxis and other transport</td> <td data-bbox="1015 459 1321 490">\$37,530</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All travel on domestic flights and flights to New Zealand are in economy class. International flights (other than to New Zealand) are in business class.</p> <p>Travel is undertaken for official purposes for the proper and effective management of the investment portfolio.</p> <p>c) For the rest of the calendar year, travel will be undertaken for official purposes and in line with the requirements for the effective management of the investment portfolio. This includes the monitoring and review of investment managers and assets, the identification of new managers and investment opportunities, due diligence work and engagement with existing and potential investment partners and peers.</p>	Accommodation and meals	\$98,635	Flights (domestic and international)	\$399,675	Taxis and other transport	\$37,530
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