

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Travel costs - department

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 304

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

1. 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).
2. 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.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

1. Staff from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet undertake travel in advance of, and accompany, the Prime Minister to support the Prime Minister and coordinate arrangements for the Prime Minister's overseas visits. Staff accompany the Prime Minister or Portfolio Ministers on their travel for domestic events on limited occasions. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow such data to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

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2. The department's total domestic and international travel expenditure since February 2014 is \$4,119,736.97. The department does not centrally record all travel for Departmental officers. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
3. The department has staff in offices across Australia, providing services to people across the country. Travel is planned as required, including for meetings with State and Territory Governments.