

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio

Topic: Travel costs - department

Senator: 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: 2

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.

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

Answer:

- a) No Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) employee has accompanied the Minister on travel since the Additional Estimates in February 2014.
- b) For the period from the Additional Estimates in February to 31 May 2014, it was estimated that \$333,295 (excluding GST) has been spent on travel as detailed below:

APSC staff airfare (not otherwise specified)	\$67,971
Travel allowance including domestic accommodation	\$73,827
International Aid Program related travel	\$109,374
Indigenous recruitment candidate airfare	\$9,136
Reviewers and contractors for Agency Capability Reviews	\$9,827
Taxi, parking and car hire	\$50,556
Motor vehicle allowance*	\$12,603
Total travel cost	\$333,295[#]

*Allowance for motor vehicle paid is the lesser of the motor vehicle allowance and the cost of travel by air.

[#]The estimated travel costs incurred on fee for service basis from February to May 2014 was \$149,687. The APSC's own travel costs were estimated to be \$188,816.

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- c) The APSC does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow the detailed breakdown of costs and itemised information requested to be provided to this question. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of the APSC's resources.
- d) The APSC does not record detailed information regarding travel plans. It is not expected that travel activities will increase in comparison to historical trends. Business as usual activities include travel associated with representational responsibilities, international assistance, Indigenous recruitment and learning and leadership development activities.