

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program:

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

Topic: International Forums – Travel

Senator: Senator McKenzie

Question reference number: 31

Type of question: FPA, Monday 26 May 2014, page 116

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator McKENZIE: Okay. Could you outline the plans for staff from your office to travel to engage in these types of forums?

Mr Neave: The plan?

Senator McKENZIE: The staff travel to participate in these engagements.

Mr Neave: The arrangements are made throughout office with funding through AusAID and DFAT.

Senator McKENZIE: How many staff? How big a budget out of AusAID? What is the travel budget for participating in these?

Mr Neave: I think we might take that question on notice. That is probably the easiest way.

Answer:

International travel for staff under DFAT-funded programs

In the 2014-15 financial year the Office will undertake activities on four aid programs under a Record of Understanding (ROU) with DFAT. DFAT has agreed to fund these programs up to the following maximum amount:

<i>Program</i>	<i>Funding for our office</i>	<i>Funding given to a contracted logistics services provider for use by our program</i>
Solomon Islands Ombudsman	\$159,451	-
Pacific Ombudsman Alliance	\$547,300*	-
Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea	\$399,608	\$358,446
Ombudsmen of the Republic of Indonesia	\$290,524	\$179,355
	\$1,396,883	\$537,801
Total DFAT funding		\$1,934,684

*including \$173,185 from NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Under these programs, staff travel overseas to deliver specific activities (for example, training) and to conduct planning, monitoring and evaluation of the aid programs as required by our ROU with DFAT.

The Office estimates the following amounts will be spent on staff travel under each program in the 2014-15 financial year, including flights, accommodation, travel allowances, medical costs and ground transport:

<i>Program</i>	<i>Estimated staff travel cost</i>
Solomon Islands Ombudsman	\$64,070
Pacific Ombudsman Alliance	\$68,430
Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea	\$103,528
Ombudsmen of the Republic of Indonesia	\$77,215
Total estimated staff travel costs	\$313,243