

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee:
Answers to written Questions on Notice Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013–14
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio
November 2013

Department: Parliamentary Budget Office

Topic: Travel costs

Senator: Senator Ludwig

Question reference number: 89

Type of question: Written

Question

- 1. For the financial year to date, please 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. For the financial year to date, please 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 the financial year from 7 September 2013? Also, provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**
- 4. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**
- 5. What is the policy for business class airfare tickets?**
- 6. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.**
- 7. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.**
- 8. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?**

Answer

1. Not applicable.
2. In November 2013, the First Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Budget Analysis Division chaired an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) working party in Paris. The meetings concerned were the OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs, Working Party 2 (WP2) on Tax Policy Analysis and Tax Statistics and for the Joint Meeting of Tax and Environment Experts (JMTEE).

The total cost for this travel was \$9,608.78, comprising \$8,235.30 for an international flight, \$1,090.47 for accommodation and \$283.01 for meals and incidentals.

3. The Parliamentary Budget Officer will be presenting at the Carnegie Mellon Forum in Adelaide on the 29 November 2013 on the role of the Parliamentary Budget Office.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer will be attending the 6th Annual Meeting of OECD Parliamentary Budget Officials and Independent Fiscal Institutions which is expected to be held in the first half of 2014.

The First Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Budget Analysis Division, will be attending meetings of the OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs in January 2014 in Paris and chairing the WP2 JMTEE meetings in Paris in May 2014.

4. Refer to the Parliamentary Budget Officer's travel to Adelaide in question 3.
5. The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) travel policy allows for business class airfares for:
 - i. international travel to all PBO officials; and
 - ii. domestic flights for SES officials excluding flights between Canberra and Sydney or Melbourne.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer's travel entitlements are in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/10 – *Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Full-Time Public Office*.

6. No.
7. No.
8. No.