

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Overseas ministerial travel – proposals approved

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 105

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 9

Question:

Please provide details of all overseas ministerial visits approved by the Prime Minister since 18 September 2013 including, for each proposed visit: (a) the date approval was sought (b) the date travel was approved (c) the name of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary (c) the countries to be visited (d) the purpose of the visit (d) the number of accompanying staff (e) whether accompanying spouse travel was sought (f) whether accompanying spouse travel was approved and (g) the estimated cost outlined in the visit proposal.

Answer:

Details of overseas ministerial visits between 18 September and 30 November 2013 are included in Attachment A. The provision of details of approved visits that did not proceed could be reasonably expected to cause damage to Australia's international relations.

ATTACHMENT A: TRAVEL REQUESTS APPROVED BETWEEN 18 SEPTEMBER AND 30 NOVEMBER 2013

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/Regions Visited	Purpose	No of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Ms Bishop	18 Sept	19 Sept	United States	Lead Australia's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly Leaders' Week to conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$55,895
Ms Bishop	25 Sept	27 Sept	Indonesia	To accompany the Prime Minister on his first visit to Indonesia.	1	No	n/a	\$6,216
Ms Bishop	22 Sept	27 Sept	New Zealand, Singapore	Conduct a series of high-level meetings and attend the 2013 APEC Ministerial Meeting.	2	No	n/a	Not available

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/Regions Visited	Purpose	No of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Ms Bishop	2 Oct	11 Oct	Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, China	Conduct a series of high-level meetings and attend the Seoul Cyberspace Conference.	2	No	n/a	\$31,503
Ms Bishop	23 Oct	30 Oct	Indonesia	Attend the sixth Bali Democracy Forum and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$10,105
Ms Bishop	25 Oct	7 Nov	Sri Lanka, India, United States	Attend the foreign ministers' components of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the Australia-United States Ministerial consultations and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$71,722

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/Regions Visited	Purpose	No of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Mr Frydenberg	9 Oct	11 Oct	United States (Hawaii)	Represent the Government at the Australian American Leadership Dialogue.	0	No	n/a	\$7,870 (excluding accommodation)
Mr Frydenberg	6 Nov	13 Nov	Thailand	Represent the Government at the Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law, Justice and Security for the Post-2015 [United Nations] Development Agenda.	0	No	n/a	\$8,606
Mr Hockey	11 Sept	18 Sept	Indonesia	Attend the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	2	No	n/a	Not available

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/Regions Visited	Purpose	No of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Mr Hockey	27 Sept	3 Oct	United States	Attend the G20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$59,881
Senator Johnston	14 Oct	18 Oct	Belgium, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Middle East Area of Operations	Attend the NATO and International Security Assistance Force Defence Ministers' Meeting, conduct high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$42,051

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/Regions Visited	Purpose	No of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Senator Johnston	31 Oct	4 Nov	Indonesia	Conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$11,331
Senator Johnston	4 Nov	14 Nov	United States	Attend the Australia-United States Minister consultations and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$31,863
Mr Macfarlane	24 Oct	27 Oct	Japan, China	Conduct a series of high-level meetings and attend the China Mining Conference.	1	No	n/a	\$31,696
Senator Mason	(received 9 Oct)	14 Oct	Vietnam	Attend the ceremony for the Cao Lanh Bridge and conduct a series of meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$13,275

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/Regions Visited	Purpose	No of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Senator Mason	(received 15 Oct)	21 Oct	Japan	Attend the Pacific Islands Leaders' Meeting.	1	No	n/a	\$23,969
Senator Mason	(received 28 Oct)	1 Nov	China, Pakistan	Conduct a series of high-level meetings and attend the China-Pacific Islands Economic Development and Cooperation Forum.	1	No	n/a	\$36,474
Mr Morrison	24 Sept	25 Sept	Papua New Guinea	Conduct a series of meetings and site visits.	2	No	n/a	\$3,250 (excluding the cost of air travel)
Mr Morrison	21 Oct	21 Oct	Malaysia	Conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$16,985
Mr Morrison	22 Oct	24 Oct	Indonesia	Conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$22,400

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/Regions Visited	Purpose	No of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Mr Morrison	15 Nov	20 Nov	Papua New Guinea	Conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$12,750
Mr Robb	25 Sept	27 Sept	Indonesia	Accompany the Prime Minister, attend the 2013 APEC Ministerial Meeting and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$15,792
Mr Robb	11 Oct	17 Oct	China	Conduct a series of high-level meetings and attend the opening ceremony of the Southeast University-Monash University Joint Graduate School and Joint Research Institute.	1	No	n/a	\$23,063

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/Regions Visited	Purpose	No of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Mr Robb	8 Oct	23 Oct	United States	Attend the Coalition of Service Industries Global Services Summit and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	Yes, at no cost to the Commonwealth	Yes, at no cost to the Commonwealth	\$31,695
Mr Robb	(received 6 Nov)	8 Nov	Republic of Korea, Japan, China	Conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$48,116
Senator Ronaldson	(received 23 Sept)	8 Oct	France	Participate in high-level discussions and visit World War 1 commemorative locations.	1	Yes (subsequently withdrawn)	n/a	\$33,530