

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
 20 October 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.2

Topic: Telepresence

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F70

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Can the Department provide statistics of telepresence usage year by year since it was first rolled out?
2. Does the Department keep track of overall travel costs across Government, and in particular, whether or not travel costs have declined with the increased usage of telepresence? Can the Department provide statistics of Commonwealth travel costs year by year since telepresence was first rolled out?
3. Can the Department provide details of the costs of operating the telepresence system year by year since it was first rolled out?

Answer:

1. Statistics for the use of the National TelePresence System (NTS) are shown in Table 1 below.
2. The Department of Finance tracks expenditure in relation to whole of government airline travel, accommodation and hire car use. Overall travel costs are not captured with respect to NTS use. Estimates of travel avoided through the use of TelePresence are shown in Table 1 below.
3. The operating expense of the NTS is included in Table 1. The National TelePresence System Phase II commenced operation in July 2014.

Table 1. Financial Year NTS Use, Cost Avoidance and Operating Cost

Financial Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
NTS Phase 1 Meetings	203	556	1061	1382	890	878
NTS Phase 2 Calls						7422
Estimated cost of travel avoided due to use of the NTS	\$1.1M	\$6.1M	\$22.0M	\$30.7M	\$22.9M	\$19.5M
Total Operating Cost of the NTS	\$3.2M	\$2.4M	\$2.4M	\$1.2M	\$2.9M	\$3.5M