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Topic: Travel cost to South Africa
Asked: 17 October 2016

Question

Senator DODSON: I am interested in the external engagement part of the report you have given us. Firstly, there is the cost of the trip to South Africa. Have there been other external participations of a like nature?

Mr Bowen: Yes. We do not have a lot of international engagement trips, but once a year I do attend the OECD's network of parliamentary budget officials and independent fiscal counsels. That is a very useful forum for the exchange of experiences and ideas between like organisations. I am not sure whether you are aware of this, but within the OECD there are now more than 30 such organisations operating. Those organisations are also spreading to the developed world; hence, I was asked to go to South Africa a few weeks ago to participate in a conference there. There were a number of parliamentary budget officials there from the developed world, including from the UK and Canada. There was OECD representation as well as IMF and World Bank representation. It is usually one trip a year. The last couple of years I have also participated in conferences in Japan and Korea. In each case those were funded by the Japanese and Korean authorities. In the case of the South Africans, we funded that travel, as you would probably expect. As to the cost, I may have to come back to you to give you a figure for that.

Answer

The total cost for the trip to South Africa, comprising flights, accommodation, meals and incidentals, was \$7,005.97 (excluding GST).