

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE14/294) PROGRAMME –

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

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.

- What date was the minister or their office notified of the travel?
- What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
- What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

*Answer:*

Travel costs for portfolio officials as defined under the Public Service Act, including ongoing and non-ongoing staff, from 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014, are as follows:

	<b>1 June 2014 - 31 October 2014</b>
<b>Domestic</b>	
Airfares	\$ 6 480 733
Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals*	\$ 8 276 859
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 14 757 592</b>
<b>International</b>	
Airfares	\$ 3 666 701
Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals*	\$ 4 955 635
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 8 622 336</b>
<b>Other</b>	
Taxi fares	\$ 1 194 255
Other vehicle costs	\$ 415 015
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 1 609 270</b>
<b>Total travel expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 24 989 198</b>

\*Further breakdown between Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals is not possible due to current accounting records.

Approval for International Travel for Immigration and Border Protection officers, from 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014, is as follows:

- a. Between 1 June 2014 and 31 October 2014 the Minister was notified of two international trips requiring his approval. They were:
  - A trip to Cambodia submitted on 19 June 2014
  - A trip to Nauru submitted on 1 September 2014
- b. The Minister approved the international travel on:
  - 23 June 2014 for Cambodia
  - 8 September 2014 for Nauru
- c. Travel for the remainder of the calendar year is yet to be determined. Operational requirements that will impact travel costs are specified above.

Approval for International Travel for Australian Customs and Border Protection officers, from 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014, are as follows:

- a. Between 1 June 2014 and 31 October 2014 the Minister was notified of six international trips requiring his approval. They were:
  - A trip to the United States of America, submitted on 8 July 2014
  - A trip to India, submitted on 11 July 2014
  - A trip to multiple overseas countries, submitted on 1 October 2014
  - A trip to Indonesia, submitted on 8 October 2014
  - A trip to Indonesia, submitted on 20 October 2014
  - A trip to Brazil, submitted on 21 October 2014
- b. The Minister approved the international travel on:
  - 14 July for USA and Canada
  - 15 August 2014 for India
  - 1 October for multiple overseas countries
  - 9 October for Indonesia
  - 20 October for Indonesia
  - 22 October for Brazil
- c. Travel planned for the remainder of the calendar year is as follows, noting that the common reasons for travel are specified above:
  - 1084 domestic trips to destinations within Australia
  - 12 trips from overseas locations to Australia
  - 2 trips to Brazil
  - 8 trips to Brussels
  - 2 trips to Canada
  - 2 trips to Canada and the United States of America
  - 1 trip to China
  - 1 trip to Hong Kong
  - 2 trips to India
  - 24 trips to Indonesia
  - 3 trips to Japan
  - 2 trips to Korea

- 23 trips to Malaysia
- 14 trips to New Zealand
- 2 trips to Pakistan
- 20 trips to Papua New Guinea
- 88 trips to Singapore
- 4 trips to Switzerland
- 2 trips to Switzerland and Japan
- 2 trips to Thailand
- 5 trips to the United States of America
- 1 trip to the United States of America and Canada
- 2 trips to Vietnam
- 25 trips with destination not specified

#### Joint Agency Task Force

The Joint Agency Task Force information has been included in the information provided by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service above.

#### Migration Review Tribunal – Refugee Review Tribunal

During the period 27 May 2014 to 20 October 2014, the Migration Review Tribunal – Refugee Review Tribunal spent the following amounts on member and staff travel costs:

	<b>27 May 2014 - 20 October 2014</b>
<b>Domestic</b>	
Airfares	\$ 45 313
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 45 313</b>
<b>International</b>	
Airfares	\$ 3 103
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 3 103</b>
<b>Other</b>	
Travel Allowance (meals, accommodation and incidentals)	\$ 68 035
Taxi fares	\$ 16 532
Other vehicle costs	\$ 155
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 84 722</b>
<b>Total travel expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 133 138</b>

All travel expenditure in the agency for the period 27 May 2014 to 20 October 2014 was conducted in support of tribunal business, including travel of members and staff:

- for the conduct of hearings

- for community liaison activities
  - to conduct meetings
  - to attend training.
- a. The Migration Review Tribunal – Refugee Review Tribunal does not notify the minister or their office of the date of travel of its officers, apart from international travel for the Principal Member.
- b. The Migration Review Tribunal – Refugee Review Tribunal does not notify the minister or their office of the date of travel of its officers, apart from international travel for the Principal Member.
- c. Future travel arrangements are based on operational requirements and are subject to change. The Migration Review Tribunal – Refugee Review Tribunal is planning for travel to occur to support tribunal operations over the remainder of the calendar year. Operational requirements that will impact travel costs are specified above.