

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: 1.6

Question No. SBE15/062

Senator Bilyk asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

1. Did the Attorney-General, his office or Department participate in the former Prime Minister's trip to the Torres Strait?
If so-
 - a. What was the duration of the visit to Torres Strait?
 - b. Which locations did the Attorney-General's/AGD party travel to?
 - c. Which communities did the Attorney-General's/AGD party engage with?
 - d. What type of activities did they undertake?
 - e. What were the outcomes of the trip?
 - f. Was an official report or communique or similar published in relation to the trip?
 - g. Are you able to please provide an itinerary for the Attorney-General's/AGD's trip?
 - h. Which hotel or hotels did the Attorney-General's/AGD stay in?
 - i. Could you please provide an itemised cost breakdown in relation to the Attorney-General's/AGD's involvement in this trip? This should be broken down into categories such as accommodation, ground transport, meals, incidentals etc.
 - j. How many members of the Attorney-General's staff participated in the trip?
 - k. Could you please advise the number of staff, their title and staffing classification under the MOPS Enterprise Agreement?
 - l. In terms of departmental officials from AGD, could you please advise the names and roles of each departmental official in attendance?
 - m. Could you also please provide an itemised list of costs for AGD officials in terms of flights, accommodation, ground transport, meals and other incidentals? This should specify the officials which travelled in business class and those that travelled in economy, the hotels they stayed in and which businesses supplied ground transport.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. Yes.
 - (a) 24 to 26 August 2015.
 - (b)–(f), (h)–(i) Questions about the details of the visit, including costs, should be directed to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
 - (g) The itinerary for the Attorney-General's trip is at Attachment A. The itinerary was managed by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
 - (j) One.
 - (k) Assistant Adviser.
 - (l) Mr Greg Manning, Acting Deputy Secretary, Civil Justice and Legal Services Group.
 - (m) The department met the following costs for Mr Manning:

(i) flights - \$2,436

- 23 August, Canberra to Brisbane - economy
- 24 August, Brisbane to Cairns - business
- 24 August, Cairns to Horn Island - economy
- 26 August, Bamaga to Cairns - economy
- 26 August, Cairns to Brisbane - business
- 27 August, Brisbane to Canberra - economy

(ii) accommodation - \$727

- 23 August, Brisbane Marriot Hotel
- 24 August, the Jardine Motel
- 25 August, Bamaga Defence Base
- 26 August, Emporium Hotel Brisbane

(iii) ground transport - \$26.40 (ferry) and \$256 (taxis)

- McDonald Charter boats provided the ferry between Horn Island and Thursday Island. Questions about ground transport should be directed to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

(iv) meals - \$234

(v) miscellaneous – (incidentals) \$107.20