

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 319 - 322

Topic: Travel Costs (PC)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

319. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
320. Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.
321. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the cost per employee.
322. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as their Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

Answer:

319.

Category	Amount (GST exclusive)
Domestic Travel Allowances	\$97,174
Domestic Airfares	\$294,103
Domestic Accommodation	\$48,978
Domestic Other Travel Costs	\$86,196
International Travel Allowances	\$12,772
International Airfares	\$62,987
International Accommodation	\$8,437
International Other Travel Costs	\$704
Airline Booking Fee	\$5,516
Whole of Government (WOG) Booking Fee	\$1,758
2011-12 Financial Year to Date (31 January 2012) Total	\$618,625

Senior employees are entitled to Business class travel within Australia as part of their terms and conditions of employment. Staff are entitled to Business class when travelling internationally. To attempt to provide a greater level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.

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320. Yes.
321. Yes, one lounge membership is available to senior employees who are frequent travellers as part of their terms and conditions of employment. At 31 January 2012, there were 23 Qantas lounge memberships. The cost of an annual membership at 31 January 2012 was \$250 (GST Incl).
322. No.