

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 303-306

Topic: Travel Costs (APRA)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

303. 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.
304. Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.
305. 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.
306. 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:

303. Total cost of travel for 2011-12 financial year to date at 31 January 2012:
Domestic - \$ 609,854
International - \$ 914,696

APRA does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide the level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of APRA's resources.

304. APRA utilises government's centralised airline booking service to secure 'best fare of the day'. This may or may not incorporate direct routes when travelling.
305. Yes. Qantas and/or Virgin airline lounge memberships are provided to APRA staff that regularly travel interstate and internationally on APRA business to assist in their productivity while out of the office. For the financial year to 31 January 2012, the total cost of lounge memberships was \$8,763 and the average cost of membership per employee was \$204.
306. No.