

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
2-3 June 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Ministerial Travel

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz

QUESTION No. B1-19

In relation to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, have the Ministers travelled overseas on official business since appointment? (In relation to each Minister) If so, where was the travel and what was the duration?

What was the total cost of:

- travel;
- accommodation; and
- any other expenses?

How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Ministers?

For these staff/family what was the cost of:

- travel;
- accommodation; and
- any other expenses?

ANSWER

As at 5 June 2008 two Ministerial overseas visits had been undertaken since the current Government took office. These were: Minister Carr to Japan, Germany and Belgium, 28 February – 8 March 2008; and Minister Emerson to New Zealand, 22-23 May 2008. Both Ministers were accompanied by one staff member – their respective Chiefs of Staff.

A report on the costs for overseas Ministerial travel (including staff) is tabled every six months by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. We understand the next report, which will cover the period January to June 2008, will be tabled in the last week of Parliamentary sittings for November/December 2008. Senators should refer to that public document for information on Ministerial travel costs.