

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
28 and 29 May 2012

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

**TOPIC:** Community Cabinet Meetings

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Bushby

**QUESTION No.:** BI-184

1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?
2. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel?
3. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses.
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

**ANSWER**

1. \$14,431 (GST exclusive).
2. For the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year:
  - Three ministerial staff from former Minister Kim Carr office, attended the meeting in Yeronga, Queensland (1 September 2011) at a cost of \$5,072 (GST exclusive).
  - One ministerial staffer from The Hon Nick Sherry MP office, attended the meeting in Kingston, Tasmania meeting (3 October 2011) at nil travel cost.
  - No ministerial staffers attended the meeting in Werribee, Victoria (9 November 2012).
  - A total of nine ministerial staff attended the meeting in Parramatta, New South Wales (4 April 2012) at a cost of \$7,969 (GST exclusive). Breakdown of staff is as follows:
    - Two ministerial staff from The Hon Chris Evans office;
    - Three ministerial staff from The Hon Kate Lundy office;
    - Three ministerial staff from Ther Hon Brendan O'Connor office;
    - One ministerial staffer from The Hon Mark Dreyfus Office
  - A total of eight ministerial staff attended the meeting in Berwick, Victoria (16 May 2012) at a cost of \$10,740 (GST exclusive). Breakdown of staff is as follows:
    - Four ministerial staff from The Hon Chris Evans office
    - Four ministerial staff from The Hon Greg Combet office

3. No departmental officers travelled with the Minister(s) for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date. Two local departmental officers have attended each meeting at nil travel cost. One departmental officer attended the Berwick, Victoria meeting at a total cost of \$1,702 (GST exclusive), (consisting of \$1,113 for flights, \$308 for accommodation and \$281 for taxis).
4. The total cost to the department for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date as at 2 July 2012 is \$1,702 (GST exclusive).

The Department of Finance and Deregulation is responsible for the payment of travel costs within Australia by Ministers and their staff, including those associated with attending Community Cabinet meetings.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that the total cost for the the departments Ministers' and their staff to attend Community Cabinet meetings this financial year to date is \$38,212 (GST exclusive).

The Department of Finance and Deregulation has further advised that the following notes accompany the provision of the above information.

**Note 1.** Without consultation with the travellers, the information relies on an assumption that all travel to and from relevant locations immediately before and after the relevant Cabinet meetings, was for the purposes of attending the Cabinet meetings.

**Note 2.** The above figures include airfares and Travelling Allowance (including Motor Vehicle Allowance) claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge), COMCAR (which is charged directly to portfolio agencies), or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence).