

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
22-23 October 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE & RESEARCH

TOPIC: Ministerial Travel

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz.

QUESTION No.: SI-16

Have the Ministers travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates?

If so, where was the travel and what was the duration?

What was the total cost of:

- a) travel
- b) accommodation, and
- c) any other expenses?

How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Ministers?

For these staff/family what was the cost of:

- a) travel
- b) accommodation, and
- c) any other expenses?

How many officers from the Department accompanied the Ministers?

In relation to these Departmental officers, what was the total cost of:

- a) travel
- b) accommodation, and
- c) any other expenses?

ANSWER

Senator Carr has travelled overseas on official business twice since Budget Estimates up until the end of November 2008. The first visit was to Japan and the United States from Monday 9 June to Wednesday 18 June 2008. The Minister visited Japan from 17 to 19 November 2008 accompanied by one staff member and one Departmental Officer. Costs relating to the more recent travel are yet to be finalised.

- a), b), c) For the total cost of the Minister's travel, accommodation and any other expenses, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's report on overseas Ministerial Travel.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation tables all costs for overseas Ministerial travel (including family and staff) that the Department of Finance and Deregulation has met on a six monthly basis. The reports relating to Minister Carr's trip to Japan and the United States in June 2008 will be tabled in future tabling reports that are expected to be provided to Parliament in the last week of Parliamentary sittings in December and in the Parliamentary sittings for June each year.

Two ministerial staff and one family member accompanied Minister Carr. Note that the two ministerial staff did not travel at the same time but accompanied the Minister on different legs of the trip.

- a), b), c) For the total cost of travel, accommodation and any other expenses for staff and family, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's report on overseas Ministerial Travel.

One Departmental officer accompanied Minister Carr.

The total costs for one Departmental official were:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| a) travel | \$28,358.66 |
| b) accommodation | \$3,657.24 |
| c) other expenses | \$3,019.23 |

Note: The total travel cost differs from the amount previously advised in Parliamentary Question No 729 because it now includes ground transport in Nagoya, San Francisco and San Diego and a ground transfer from San Diego to Los Angeles.

The Hon Dr Craig Emerson MP has not travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates.