

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency All

DEEWR Question No. EW0957_09

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW783_09

Question

Ministerial Travel

Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary 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

Answer

Ministers are provided with a range of entitlements, with the costs of these being shared between a number of Agencies. Costs of official overseas travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, family (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

The details of the portfolio Ministers' overseas travel costs from the 2008 Budget Estimates to the 2008 Budget Supplementary Estimates, as advised by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, was tabled by the department in EW783_09.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that, since 2008 Budget Supplementary Estimates, the Hon Julia Gillard MP travelled to Switzerland from 28 January to 2 February 2009 accompanied by two personal staff. The Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that it has not yet fully reconciled the costs of this travel.

The dates, destinations, purpose and costs of all official overseas travel are tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled '*Parliamentarians' Travel Paid By The Department of Finance and Deregulation*'.