

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 1, Program 1.1

Topic: Attendance at Community Cabinet Meetings

Question reference number: F85

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Barnett asked:

- a) What was the cost of the Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates?
- b) How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting?
- c) What was the total cost of this travel?
- d) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?

Answer:

- a) Eight Community Cabinet meetings have been held since Budget Estimates 2009. The Minister for Finance and Deregulation attended five of those meetings. Travel costs were \$8,103.39 and expenses were \$774.00.

Note 1—Without consultation with the traveller, the information provided above relies on an assumption that all travel to and from relevant locations immediately before and after the relevant Community Cabinet meetings, was for the purpose of attending the meetings.

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

Note 3—The travel cost information provided includes additional destinations for the Hon Lindsay Tanner MP when he attended the Community Cabinet meeting in Beenleigh, Qld. Given the nature of the flight bookings, the costs of the additional destinations are not able to be disaggregated from the cost of travel to attend Community Cabinet meetings.

- b) Number of Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers who travelled with the Minister to Community Cabinet meetings:

Beenleigh QLD	- 2
Elizabeth SA	- 0
Port Macquarie NSW	- 1
Geraldton WA	- 0
Hobart TAS	- 2
Bathurst NSW	- 2
Townsville QLD	- 0
Adelaide SA	- 2

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c) The total cost of travel and expenses for Ministerial staffers and Finance officials who attended Community Cabinet Meetings since Budget Estimates 2009 was:

Beenleigh QLD	-	\$1,820.09
Elizabeth SA	-	nil
Port Macquarie NSW	-	\$811.98
Geraldton WA	-	nil
Hobart TAS	-	\$2,460.86
Bathurst NSW	-	\$909.55
Townsville QLD	-	nil
<u>Adelaide SA</u>	-	<u>\$2,394.52</u>
TOTAL COST	-	\$ 8,397.00

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

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

d) The total cost of travel and expenses for Finance officials was \$3,381.54 and the total cost of travel and expenses for the Finance Minister and his staff was \$13,892.85.