

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

PM&C Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Mental Health Commission
Outcome/Program: National Mental Health Commission
Topic: Travel Costs

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 102

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately,) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

For the financial year to date, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.

For the financial year to date, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.

For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.

Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the cost per employee.

When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as their Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

Answer:

The National Mental Health Commission does not have information about travel costs by ministers, parliamentary secretaries and MOP(S) Act staff as these arrangements are administered by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Commission staff undertook the following travel between 1 January 2012 and 31 January 2012:

Travel one:

- Staff classification: EL2
- Travel: return trip to ACT 18 and 19 January 2012
- Purpose: to attend meetings at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the National Report Card on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention tender evaluation process
- Accommodation: \$472.46
- Taxis: \$153.07
- Food: \$83.40

Travel two

- Staff classification: EL2
- Travel: return trip to ACT 30 January 2012
- Purpose: to attend a meeting on the National Report Card on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention tender evaluation process
- Taxis: \$194.37

Employees of the Commission take the most direct route when travelling.

Commission staff travel based on business needs. On this basis no support or administrative staff travel with SES employees to support these SES employees.