

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of National Assessments
Outcome/Program: 1
Topic: Travel Costs

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 Office of National Assessments does not arrange travel for the Prime Minister, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and/or Parliamentary staff.

The total ONA cost for domestic travel expenses from 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 is \$75,492.09. This includes 89 domestic trips.

The total ONA cost for international travel expenses from 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 is \$798,017.63. This includes 69 international trips.

ONA officials fly economy class for domestic travel. SES officers fly economy for Sydney and Melbourne sectors and business class on all other domestic flights.

ONA officials fly business class for international travel taking the most direct route. There are occasions when international travel is taken in economy class due to availability and routing.

Six ONA officials have Qantas Club memberships at a total cost of \$1,365 per annum.

The Director General was accompanied by the ONA Executive Officer on one trip at a cost of \$21,889. The Executive Officer provided administrative support.

ONA does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow more detailed answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.