

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance Portfolio

Question reference number: F96

Senator: Ludwig

Topic: Departmental travel costs

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 4

Question:

- a) From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
- b) From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- c) What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

Department / Agency	Response												
Finance	<p>a) Nil.</p> <p>b) For the period 1 September 2013 and 31 January 2014:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Expense</th><th>\$</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domestic Airfares</td><td>199,367</td></tr> <tr> <td>International Airfares</td><td>107,742</td></tr> <tr> <td>Domestic Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals</td><td>274,177</td></tr> <tr> <td>International Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals</td><td>97,244</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total (Excluding GST)</td><td>678,530</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Breaking this expenditure down to the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.</p>	Expense	\$	Domestic Airfares	199,367	International Airfares	107,742	Domestic Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals	274,177	International Accommodation, Meals & Incidentals	97,244	Total (Excluding GST)	678,530
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	<p>c). Domestic travel is undertaken as required and is approved by the appropriate delegate prior to staff travelling. It would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources to collate a list of all planned domestic travel. Planned international travel as part of the Department's work on assisting certain countries to enhance their budget and financial management is detailed in the table below. The costs will be met by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Country/Program</th><th>Purpose</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongim Gavman Program (SGP) PNG-Australia Finance Twinning Scheme (PAFTS)</td><td>Twinning placements with PNG Finance and/or PNG Treasury.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Indonesia Government Partnership for Development (GPDF)</td><td>High level discussions with counterparts, pastoral care to deployed officials and pre-deployment is reconnaissance for deploying officials.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Solomon Islands Economic and Public Sector Management Program</td><td>Twinning placement with Solomon Islands (SI) Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT).</td></tr> <tr> <td>Solomon Islands Economic and Public Sector Management Program</td><td>Non-tax revenue scoping study.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pacific Island Countries (PIC)</td><td>Non-tax revenue project (stage 5).</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pacific Island Countries (PIC)</td><td>Cook Island Public Expenditure Financial Accountability (PEFA).</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pacific Island Countries (PIC)</td><td>Fiji scoping study</td></tr> <tr> <td>All countries</td><td>Deployee recall.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Country/Program	Purpose	Strongim Gavman Program (SGP) PNG-Australia Finance Twinning Scheme (PAFTS)	Twinning placements with PNG Finance and/or PNG Treasury.	Indonesia Government Partnership for Development (GPDF)	High level discussions with counterparts, pastoral care to deployed officials and pre-deployment is reconnaissance for deploying officials.	Solomon Islands Economic and Public Sector Management Program	Twinning placement with Solomon Islands (SI) Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT).	Solomon Islands Economic and Public Sector Management Program	Non-tax revenue scoping study.	Pacific Island Countries (PIC)	Non-tax revenue project (stage 5).	Pacific Island Countries (PIC)	Cook Island Public Expenditure Financial Accountability (PEFA).	Pacific Island Countries (PIC)	Fiji scoping study	All countries	Deployee recall.
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AEC	<p>a) Nil.</p> <p>b) For the period 7 September 2013 to 31 January 2014 a total of \$1,802,024 was spent on domestic and international official travel.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Expense</th><th>\$</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domestic Airfares</td><td>563,301</td></tr> <tr> <td>Domestic Accommodation</td><td>692,400</td></tr> <tr> <td>Domestic Travel Allowances</td><td>201,379</td></tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Airfares</td><td>234,188</td></tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Accommodation</td><td>21,217</td></tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Travel Allowances</td><td>89,539</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>1,802,024</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The AEC does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to the level of detail requested. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.</p>	Expense	\$	Domestic Airfares	563,301	Domestic Accommodation	692,400	Domestic Travel Allowances	201,379	Overseas Airfares	234,188	Overseas Accommodation	21,217	Overseas Travel Allowances	89,539	Total	1,802,024		
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	c) Departmental travel will be focused on the WA Senate election, and any related post-election activities.												
ComSuper	<p>a) N/A.</p> <p>b) Travel is undertaken on a needs basis where it represents the most efficient, effective and economic method of conducting ComSuper's business. For the period 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014, \$198,374 (GST exclusive) was spent on travel. A breakdown is provided below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Expense</th><th>(\$ (Excluding GST)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Airfares</td><td>39,030</td></tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation</td><td>35,556</td></tr> <tr> <td>Travel allowance</td><td>12,851</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cabs, fares, rental cars and associated costs</td><td>32,104</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>119,541</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>ComSuper finalises its General Ledger on a monthly basis. The requested reporting-period does not align with ComSuper's monthly reporting cycle. As such, while immaterial, the reported expenditure may be marginally overstated due to effect of accounting adjustments such as accruals. To attempt to adjust this would involve an unnecessary diversion of resources.</p> <p>c) Travel for the purposes of conducting business is planned for the rest of the financial year. Travel is undertaken on a needs basis where it represents the most efficient, effective and economic method of conducting our business.</p>	Expense	(\$ (Excluding GST)	Airfares	39,030	Accommodation	35,556	Travel allowance	12,851	Cabs, fares, rental cars and associated costs	32,104	Total	119,541
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Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	<p>a) N/A.</p> <p>b) For the period (7 September 2013 – 31 January 2014) \$339,308.52 was spent on travel. It is not possible to individually report on all items in the question as the type of fare purchased is determined by CSC policy and the cost for accommodation, food and incidental expenses are met by individual travellers from domestic or international travel allowances at a daily rate. Travel is for business purposes only.</p> <p>c) For the period (1 February 2014 – 31 December 2014) it is forecast that \$1,020,000 will be spent on travel. The purpose of the travel is for core operational activities undertaken by CSC and all travel is for business purposes only.</p>												
Future Fund Management Agency	<p>a) None</p> <p>b) For the period 7 September 2013 to 31 January 2014:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Expense</th><th>\$</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Accommodation and meals</td><td>199,455</td></tr> <tr> <td>Flights (domestic and international)</td><td>504,709</td></tr> <tr> <td>Taxis and other transport</td><td>53,837</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All travel on domestic flights and flights to New Zealand are in economy class. International flights (other than to New Zealand) are in business class.</p> <p>Travel is undertaken for official purposes for the proper and effective</p>	Expense	\$	Accommodation and meals	199,455	Flights (domestic and international)	504,709	Taxis and other transport	53,837				
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	<p>management of the investment portfolio.</p> <p>c) For the rest of the calendar year, travel will be undertaken for official purposes and in line with the requirements for the effective management of the investment portfolio. This includes the monitoring and review of investment managers and assets, the identification of new managers and investment opportunities, due diligence work and engagement with existing and potential investment partners and peers.</p>
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