

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Overseas ministerial travel

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 69

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 5

Question:

Can an update of the table in the answer to question on notice 105 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates round please be provided?

Answer:

Details of overseas ministerial visits between 1 December 2013 and 28 February 2014 are included in Attachment A, including visits approved before 1 December 2013 and not reported in the answer to PM105 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates round. As with the answer to PM105 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates round, approved visits that did not proceed or have not yet happened are not included on the basis that the disclosure of these details could be reasonably expected to cause damage to Australia's international relations.

ATTACHMENT A: TRAVEL REQUESTS APPROVED BETWEEN 1 DECEMBER 2013 AND 28 FEBRUARY 2014

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/ Regions Visited	Purpose	No. of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Ms Bishop	26 Nov	3 Dec	Indonesia, China, Philippines	Conduct a series of high-level meetings and survey impact of typhoon Haiyan	1	No	n/a	\$24,935
Ms Bishop	29 Nov	9 Dec	Solomon Islands, Nauru, Vanuatu	Lead bipartisan delegation to conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$50,175 (does not include Senator Mason's costs)
Ms Bishop	Requested by the Prime Minister	13 Jan	Israel	Attend the funeral of former Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon.	1	No	n/a	Not available.
Ms Bishop	7 Jan	14 Jan	United States	Conduct a series of high-level meetings with US Government and Congressional leaders.	1	No	n/a	\$37,194
Ms Bishop	17 Jan	3 Feb	Papua New Guinea	Conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$24,216
Ms Bishop	30 Jan	6 Feb	Fiji	Attend the Pacific Islands Forum Ministerial Contract Group meeting and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	2	No	n/a	\$15,370

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/ Regions Visited	Purpose	No. of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Ms Bishop	30 Jan	11 Feb	Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia	Conduct a series of high-level meetings and attend the Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting.	2 entire visit, joined by an additional staffer in Cambodia	No	n/a	\$49,421
Mr Dutton	22 Jan	30 Jan	Russia	Attend the Winter Olympic Games and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	None	Yes	Received in-principle approval. On seeking final approval, Minister advised neither his spouse nor staff member would travel.	\$16,673
Mr Fletcher	24 Dec	3 Jan	United States	Attend the Australian-American Leadership Dialogue West Coast Leadership Dialogue and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	None	No	n/a	\$12,260
Senator Johnston	25 Nov	12 Dec	New Zealand	Conduct the annual Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers' meeting.	1	No	n/a	\$7,775
Mr Keenan	28 Jan	6 Feb	Papua New Guinea	Conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$11,000

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/ Regions Visited	Purpose	No. of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Senator Mason	Sought via Foreign Minister's request of 29 Nov	9 Dec	Solomon Islands, Nauru, Vanuatu	Participate in the bipartisan delegation led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$4,208
Mr Morrison	17 Jan	22 Jan	Malaysia, Burma	Conduct a series of high-level meetings.	2	No	n/a	\$46,600
Mr Morrison	25 Feb	25 Feb	Papua New Guinea	Conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$39,250
Mr Robb	18 Nov	27 Nov	Indonesia, Singapore	Attend the 9 th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference, the Trans-Pacific Partnerships Ministers meeting, chair a Cairns Group Ministerial meeting, conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$33,958
Mr Robb	23 Dec	7 Jan	United States	Participate in G'Day USA events and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$30,600
Mr Robb	23 Dec revised request 7 Jan	10 Jan	Switzerland	Attend the World Economic Forum and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$29,181

Minister	Approval Sought	Decision Date	Countries/ Regions Visited	Purpose	No. of Staff Approved for travel	Spouse Travel Sought	Spouse Travel Approved	Estimated Costs
Mr Robb	30 Jan	6 Feb	Philippines, Singapore	Lead a business delegation. Attend the Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting and conduct a series of high-level meetings.	1	No	n/a	\$34,627