

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

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Australian Public Service Commission

**Outcome/Program:** Cross Portfolio

**Topic:** Travel costs - department

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 174

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. 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).
2. 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.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

1. No Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) employee accompanied the Minister on his travel from 7 September 2013.
2. The APSC's financial management information system cannot accurately report costs for a partial month.

For the period from 1 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, \$636,968 (excluding GST) has been spent on travel as detailed below:

APSC staff airfare	\$101,360
Leading Australia's Future in the Asia-Pacific (LAFIA) Program November 2013*	\$92,820
Travel allowance including domestic accommodation	\$98,828
International assistance recipient airfare and travel allowance	\$238,943
Indigenous recruitment candidate airfare costs	\$423
Non-APSC reviewer and contractors	\$18,254
Taxi, parking and car hire	\$65,346

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Motor vehicle	\$20,994
Total travel cost	<b>\$636,968<sup>#</sup></b>

\*No new LAFIA program has been undertaken since November 2013.

<sup>#</sup>The estimated travel costs incurred on fee for service basis from September 2013 to February 2014 was \$382,690. The APSC's own travel costs were estimated to be \$254,278. The portion of travel costs incurred from fee for service areas is consistent with past periods.

The APSC does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow the detailed breakdown of costs and itemised information requested to be provided to this question. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of the APSC's resources.

3. The APSC does not record detailed information regarding travel plans. It is not expected that travel activities will increase in comparison to historical trends. Business as usual activities include travel associated with representational responsibilities, international assistance, Indigenous recruitment and learning and leadership development activities.