

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

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

**Outcome/Program:**

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

**Topic:** Travel Costs – Department

**Senator:** 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) From 7 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, Office staff did not conduct any travel to accompany the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary.
- (2) The Office does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow it to answer these questions without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The Office complies with the whole-of-government ‘best fare of the day’ requirement when booking travel. Accommodation and travel allowance is booked using pre-determined limits. Travel is undertaken to fulfil our role in relation to our statutory obligations and international

program activities. From 1 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, the total Office expense for travel was \$213,014.89. The break-down is as follows:

<b>Type</b>	<b>\$</b>
Domestic Airfares	75,561.38
Domestic Accommodation	54,462.28
Domestic Travel Allowance	35,544.87
Overseas Airfares	12,256.66
Overseas Accommodation	1,318.00
Overseas Travel Allowance	33,871.70
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL</b>	<b>213,014.89</b>

- (3) Some Office travel is planned for the remainder of the 2014 calendar year, in relation to the Office's statutory obligations and international program activities. This includes travel for outreach purposes and immigration detention inspection purposes.