

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearings 2004-05 – 26 May 2004

Question: F5

Outcome 3 Efficiently Functioning Parliament, Output 3.1 Services to Senators, Members and their Staff

Topic: Overseas Study Travel

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Senator Conroy asked:

Senator CONROY—I can assure you of that, Senator Abetz. I am going on a study tour to attend it. The dialogue is closed and there is no reporting allowed of the discussions within it.

Senator CONROY—I was wondering if you could take that on notice and give me some suggestions. Can you give it some thought as to how I should address that? Given they are now public documents I cannot quite be as free as I otherwise would have been.

Answer:

The requirements for submitting a report under the overseas study travel entitlement remain unchanged. As set out in Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 14 of 2003 a Senator or Member is required to submit a report to the Special Minister of State within 30 days upon return from the overseas journey, reporting:

- “(i) confirmation of the purpose or purposes of the journey and the itinerary, including any changes to the purpose or purposes and itinerary*
- (ii) key meetings and the main findings or outcomes, and*
- (iii) conclusions drawn relating to the relevance of the tour to the senator’s or member’s parliamentary responsibilities”.*

It is the responsibility of the Senator or Member to determine the level of detail to include in the report.