

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2007-2008, 21-22 May 2007



Question: PM 85

Outcome 1, Output 3

Topic: APEC 2007 Taskforce staff travel costs and Taskforce staffing levels

Direct on Notice: Written

Senator Evans asked:

1. Please indicate the total of spending on travel by taskforce staff since February 2007. Please provide a total figure as well as a breakdown by:

- a) international air travel,
- b) domestic air travel,
- c) ground transport,
- d) accommodation, means and incidentals.

2. What is the total cost to date for the Taskforce, separately identifying employee costs, capital/equipment purchased costs and other administrative costs. Please show both new expenses incurred since 31 January 2007 and total cumulative costs.

3. Please provide a breakdown of all expenditure items greater than \$10,000 for the categories 'other administration costs' and 'capital equipment purchased', should such costs have been incurred.

4. Please provide a breakdown of all expenditures greater than \$10,000 included under 'other administration costs' (expenditure since May 2006) in response to PM 45, part 6 from the October / November 2006 Estimates hearings.

5. Please provide a breakdown of all expenditures greater than \$10,000 included under 'capital equipment purchased' (expenditure since January 2007) in response to PM 69, part 4 from the February 2007 Estimates hearings.

6. Please provide details of current taskforce staffing levels, broken down by public service grade. For each category, please indicate the number of ongoing and non-ongoing staff.

Answer:

1) Total Taskforce travel expenditure from 1 February 2006 to 31 May 2007 is \$2,646,000.

- a) international air travel – nil since 1 February 2007.
- b) domestic air travel - \$830,000 includes travel for contractors including drivers, host department liaison officers etc. Meetings have been held in Perth, Hobart, Adelaide (two meetings) and Darwin between 1 February 2007 and 31 May 2007.

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- c) ground transport - \$16,000.
- d) accommodation, meals and incidentals - \$1,800,000 includes accommodation for drivers, ministers where appropriate and other contractors.

2) See table below

Expense Type	Amount for 2005/06	Amount for 11mths 2006/07	Total Spent	Expenditure 1 Feb 2007 to 31 May 2007
Employee Costs	6,413,853	17,119,310	23,533,163	7,658,851
Accommodation Costs	1,751,231	3,695,244	5,446,475	2,393,235
Other Administration Costs	7,076,116	43,131,670	50,207,786	24,563,096
Depreciation	194,985	1,952,720	2,147,705	819,072
Total Operating Expenses	15,436,184	65,898,944	81,335,128	35,434,254
Capital Equipment Purchased	1,526,854	3,521,563	5,048,417	738,384
Total Operating and Capital Expense	16,963,038	69,420,507	86,383,545	36,172,638

- 3) Government expenditure is publicly reported in up to 3 ways;
- all procurements including expenditure by the APEC 2007 Taskforce over \$10,000 are published in the Gazette on Austender - contracts.gov.au,
 - all contracts over \$100,000 are reported six monthly in the Murray Order and;
 - all consultancies over \$10,000 are included in the Departments Annual Report.

Our reporting framework is designed to meet these requirements. Given the volume of spending transactions over the period of time involved, the resources required to produce reports you have requested are very labour intensive and would divert existing resources from planning and implementing the APEC suite of meetings.

4) as per response to Question 3.

5) as per response to Question 3.

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6) See table below

Classification Breakdown (public service grade)	Actual Staff Nos.	Break-up of Ongoing/Non-Ongoing	
		Ongoing (including secondments both Commonwealth and State Public Servants)	Non-ongoing (including casual staff)
SES Band 3	1	1	0
SES Band 1	9	7	2
Executive Level 2	31	14	17
Executive Level 1	83	21	62
APS Level 6	55	16	39
APS Level 5	20	5	15
APS Level 4	22	4	18
APS Level 3	1	0	1
Total	222	68	154
Note: Agency staff and Contractors not included in totals			

Employment Type Breakdown		Sub Totals
Ongoing PM&C	27	
Ongoing other agency (from Commonwealth Agencies)	31	
Secondees (Commonwealth and State)	10	68
Non-ongoing	152	
Casual	2	154
Total		222