

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2008  
Department of Finance and Deregulation  
Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**



**Outcome 3, Output 3.1**

**Topic: Travel by Staff Member of the Prime Minister**

**Question reference number: F19**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 36-38, 28 May 2008**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008**

**Number of Pages: 4**

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

Ms Hughes, can I ask you to produce for me all the documents relating to the travel of the travelling assistant of the Prime Minister? I would like to know the travel patterns of the travel assistant to the Prime Minister...And for each particular trip-thank you...And, while we are at it, can we throw in who else travels with the Prime Minister and in what capacity that person has been travelling with the Prime Minister since 24 November 2007.

**Answer:**

The attached table lists all travel costs paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) for the employee referred to as the 'travel assistant' to the Prime Minister since his commencement in the office on 21 January 2008.

In relation to domestic travel, the Prime Minister travels by Special Purpose Aircraft, which is administered by the Department of Defence. Finance has no records which would enable it to determine whether the Prime Minister is accompanied by a *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) employee when travelling by Special Purpose Aircraft.

When the Prime Minister travels overseas Finance is responsible for meeting the costs of the accompanying spouse, doctor and any MOP(S) Act employees. The information below lists those persons known to Finance who accompanied the Prime Minister on all or part of these trips.

East Timor - 8 to 15 December 2007

Mr David Epstein

Ms Katherine Callaghan

Mr Lachlan Harris

Dr Graeme Killer

Ms Kathleen Shaw

Ms Virginia Dale\*

Ms Alexandra Gordon\*

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Kuwait, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan - 20 to 24 December 2007

Mr David Epstein  
Dr Graeme Killer  
Mr Lachlan Harris

East Timor - 15 February 2008

Mr David Epstein  
Ms Kathleen Shaw  
Ms Fiona Sugden

Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands - 6 to 8 March 2008

Ms Jill Brunson\*  
Mr Scott Dewar  
Mr Alister Jordan  
Ms Maggie Lloyd  
Ms Kathleen Shaw  
Ms Fiona Sugden  
Ms Virginia Dale\*

USA, Belgium, Romania, UK, China - 27 March to 13 April 2008

Ms Therese Rein  
Mr David Epstein  
Ms Jill Brunson\*  
Ms Virginia Dale\*  
Mr Scott Dewar  
Mr John Fisher\*  
Ms Alexandra Gordon\*  
Mr Lachlan Harris  
Mr Steven Kennedy\*  
Ms Maggie Lloyd\*  
Ms Tracey Robinson\*  
Ms Kathleen Shaw\*  
Ms Fiona Sugden

Japan, Indonesia - 8 to 14 June 2008

Ms Therese Rein  
Mr David Epstein  
Ms Jill Brunson  
Mr Adam Collins  
Ms Virginia Dale\*  
Mr Scott Dewar  
Mr Lachlan Harris  
Ms Emily Jerris  
Dr Graeme Killer  
Ms Anne O'Rourke  
Mr Gary Quinlan

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Ms Tracey Robinson\*  
Mr George Wright

\* one or more sectors were flown via commercial carriers (separately from the Prime Minister).

Finance has no knowledge of the capacity in which MOP(S) Act employees travel with the Prime Minister.

F19 ATTACHMENT

Date	From	To	Air Fares	Car Transport	Travel Related Allowances	Further Detail
29-Feb-08	Canberra	Brisbane	\$400.79			
29-Feb-08				\$91.30		Hire Car
29-Feb-08				\$21.91		Taxi in Canberra
29-Feb-08				\$57.48		Taxi in Canberra
01-Mar-08	Canberra	Sydney	\$459.80			
01-Mar-08	Sydney	Canberra				
01-Mar-08				\$103.15		Taxi in Sydney
01-Mar-08	Canberra	Sydney		\$269.21		Hire Car
01-Mar-08					\$82.00	Travelling Allowance in Sydney
02-Mar-08				\$34.80		Taxi in Sydney
02-Mar-08					\$77.00	Travelling Allowance in Brisbane
03-Mar-08				\$26.52		Taxi in Brisbane
25-Mar-08					\$307.00	Travelling Allowance in Adelaide
26-Mar-08					\$247.00	Travelling Allowance in Sydney
26-Mar-08				\$18.24		Taxi in Adelaide
26-Mar-08				\$39.79		Taxi in Adelaide
26-Mar-08	Adelaide	Sydney	\$436.61			
27-Mar-08				\$22.44		Taxi in Sydney
27-Mar-08	OS Trip to USA, UK, Belgium, Romania and China 27 Mar to 12 Apr 08				\$1,040.40	OS Allowances
08-Apr-08			\$7,126.90			OS Fare
09-Apr-08						
15-Apr-08	Canberra	Sydney	\$461.81			
15-Apr-08					\$494.00	Travelling Allowance in Sydney
15-Apr-08				\$25.56		Taxi in Sydney
15-Apr-08				\$21.07		Taxi in Sydney
15-Apr-08				\$16.32		Taxi in Sydney
15-Apr-08				\$13.08		Taxi in Sydney
15-Apr-08				\$48.00		Taxi in Sydney
16-Apr-08				\$36.84		Taxi in Sydney
16-Apr-08				\$19.75		Taxi in Sydney
16-Apr-08				\$26.52		Taxi in Sydney
17-Apr-08				\$29.71		Taxi in Sydney
17-Apr-08				\$22.92		Taxi in Sydney
17-Apr-08	Sydney	Canberra				
18-Apr-08				\$25.08		Taxi in Canberra
23-Apr-08					\$494.00	Travelling Allowance in Sydney
23-Apr-08				\$25.32		Taxi in Sydney
24-Apr-08				\$23.40		Taxi in Sydney
24-Apr-08				\$64.44		Taxi in Sydney
24-Apr-08				\$24.24		Taxi in Sydney
24-Apr-08				\$23.76		Taxi in Sydney
30-Apr-08					\$389.50	Travelling Allowance in Melbourne
01-May-08					\$247.00	Travelling Allowance in Sydney
01-May-08				\$24.96		Taxi in Sydney
02-May-08	Canberra	Sydney	\$228.90			
06-May-08					\$377.00	Travelling Allowance in Perth
07-May-08					\$247.00	Travelling Allowance in Sydney
08-May-08					\$231.00	Travelling Allowance in Brisbane
09-May-08	Brisbane	Canberra	\$421.14			
20-May-08					\$82.00	Travelling Allowance in Sydney
21-May-08					\$446.50	Travelling Allowance in Melbourne
22-May-08					\$82.00	Travelling Allowance in Melbourne

