

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 – Support services for government operations
Topic: Support for the Prime Minister's partner

Senator: Fifield

Question reference number: 49

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Please provide:

- 1. A full position description for the employee whose duties include providing support to the Prime Minister's partner.**
- 2. The classification of this employee.**
- 3. The salary of this employee.**
- 4. The home base of this employee.**
- 5. The number of domestic flights taken by this employee for the current financial year.**
- 6. The aggregate cost of all domestic flights taken by this employee for the current financial year.**
- 7. The aggregate cost of this employee's domestic accommodation for the current financial year.**
- 8. The number of international flights taken by this employee for the current financial year.**
- 9. The aggregate cost of all international flights taken by this employee for the current financial year.**
- 10. The aggregate cost of this employee's international accommodation for the current financial year.**

Answer:

1. The Prime Minister's Office has advised that consistent with long-standing practice under previous Prime Ministers, the duties of one member of the Prime Minister's staff include providing support to Mr Mathieson in relation to his official responsibilities. That staff member is a full-time employee who has other responsibilities within the Prime Minister's Office, including providing support to the Prime Minister in relation to her Parliamentary responsibilities.

2-10. The department does not administer the employment or travel arrangements of persons engaged in the Prime Minister's Office under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* and is accordingly unable to provide answers to these questions. These matters are administered by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, with the exception of Special Purpose Aircraft flights, which are administered by the Department of Defence.