

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Topic: Travel costs

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 113

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. For the financial year to date, please 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. For the financial year to date, please 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).
3. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel, (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel, (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is this monitored?
4. If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.

Answer:

1. Nil.
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 total office expense for travel year to date end April was \$734,150.
3. Yes. Via the travel management provider's booking software.