

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of National Assessments

Outcome/Program: 1

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: 2

Question:

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).

ONA Response:

The Office of National Assessments (ONA) does not arrange travel for Departmental officers to accompany Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries.

Question:

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).

ONA Response:

- The total ONA cost for domestic travel expenses from 1 July 2011 to 30 April 2012 is \$94,621. This includes 122 domestic trips.
- The total ONA cost for international travel expenses from 1 July 2011 to 30 April 2012 is \$1,184,546. This includes 104 international trips.
- ONA officials fly economy class for domestic travel. SES officers fly economy for Sydney and Melbourne sectors and business class on all other domestic flights.
- ONA officials fly business class for international travel. There are occasions when international travel is taken in economy class due to availability and routing.

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- ONA does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow more detailed answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Question:

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? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.

ONA Response:

The ONA Delegate has regard to 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 to ensure they are being followed by ONA. This is monitored by the monthly Whole of Australian Government compliance reporting that is received from the ONA travel provider.