

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

**Topic:** Travel Costs

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 146

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 4

**Question:**

1. For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately,) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type - i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
2. For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
3. For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
4. For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type - i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
5. For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type - i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

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6. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
7. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
8. For the year FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type - i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

#### **Answer:**

1. As indicated in the answer to PM146 at Budget Estimates (copy attached), the costs of official travel by ministers and parliamentary secretaries are met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). Detailed information regarding parliamentary entitlements expenditure, including overseas and domestic travel by ministers and parliamentary secretaries is tabled in the Parliament every six months and published on the Finance website. The report also includes car transport costs for ministers and parliamentary secretaries met by their home departments.  
The department provided details about costs incurred for entertainment and gifts for the period 1 July 2010 to 24 May 2011 in the answer to PM146. The details in PM146 represent the costs for 2010-11 as no costs were incurred from 25 May 2011 to 30 June 2011. No security costs were incurred.
2. As indicated in PM146, the costs associated with travel by staff accompanying ministers and parliamentary secretaries are administered by Finance. Overseas travel costs are included at an aggregate level by Senator or Member in the report referred to in part 1. Domestic travel costs for MOP(S) Act employees, including staff accompanying ministers and parliamentary secretaries on domestic travel, is included at an aggregate level in the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act Annual Report which is tabled in the Parliament and published on the Finance website.

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3. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow extraction of information on cases where departmental staff accompanied portfolio ministers on official travel within Australia. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

The data in relation to overseas travel was provided in the answer to PM146 (attached) which reflects the full data for 2010-11.

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

In 2010-11 total travel and accommodation costs for the department from departmental funds were \$2,624,238 (GST exclusive) for travel and \$1,242,517 (GST exclusive) for accommodation. These costs include travel and accommodation expenses associated with management of the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

5. As indicated in part 1, costs of official travel by ministers and parliamentary secretaries are met by Finance. Detailed information regarding parliamentary entitlements expenditure, including overseas and domestic travel by ministers and parliamentary secretaries is tabled in the Parliament every six months and published on the Finance website. The report also includes car transport costs for ministers and parliamentary secretaries met by their home departments.

The department:

- did not incur any security costs for travel by the Prime Minister or other portfolio ministers;
- incurred costs of \$1,500 (GST inclusive) for entertainment for official functions hosted by the Prime Minister from 25 May 2011 to 28 October 2011; and
- incurred costs of \$49.50 (GST inclusive) for gifts presented by the Prime Minister during her official overseas visits from 25 May 2011 to 28 October 2011.

6. As indicated in part 2, costs associated with travel by staff accompanying ministers and parliamentary secretaries are administered by Finance. Overseas travel costs will be included at an aggregate level by Senator or Member in the report referred to in part 1. Domestic travel costs for MOP(S) Act employees,

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including staff accompanying ministers and parliamentary secretaries on domestic travel, is included at an aggregate level in the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act Annual Report which will be tabled in the Parliament and published on the Finance website.

7. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow extraction of information on cases where departmental staff accompanied portfolio ministers on official travel within Australia. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

The travel costs of departmental officers accompanying the Prime Minister and other portfolio ministers overseas in the period 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 are as follows:

<b>Purpose of Trip</b>	<b>Advance &amp; coordinate the Prime Minister's visit New Zealand: 6-8 September 2011</b>
Minister accompanied	<b>Prime Minister</b>
Travel	<b>\$1,687</b>
Accommodation/food/beverages	<b>\$7,031</b>
Security/gifts/entertainment	<b>\$0</b>
Other expenses	<b>\$1,376</b>
Staffing	<b>\$4,438</b>
Total	<b>\$14,532</b>

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

For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011, total travel and accommodation costs for the department from departmental funds were \$1,020,141 (GST exclusive) for travel and \$897,111 (GST exclusive) for accommodation. These costs include travel and accommodation expenses associated with management of the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

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**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: Travel Costs**

**Senator: Fifield**

**Question reference number: 146**

**Type of question: Written**

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

**Number of pages: 4**

**Question:**

- 1. For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include what sum was spent on travel, accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.**
- 2. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.**
- 3. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.**

**Answer:**

1. The costs of official travel by ministers, parliamentary secretaries and any accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) are met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). Detailed information regarding Parliamentary entitlements expenditure, including ministers' and parliamentary secretaries' overseas and domestic travel entitlements is tabled in the Parliament every six months and published on the Finance website. The report also includes car transport costs for ministers and parliamentary secretaries met by their home departments.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet:

- did not incur any security costs for travel by the Prime Minister or other portfolio ministers;
- incurred costs of \$2,024 (GST inclusive) for entertainment for official functions hosted by the Prime Minister from 1 July 2010 to 24 May 2011; and
- incurred costs of \$18,240 (GST inclusive) for gifts presented by the Prime Minister during her official overseas visits from 1 July 2010 to 24 May 2011.

2. The costs associated with staff accompanying ministers and parliamentary secretaries on overseas travel are met from the relevant minister or parliamentary secretary's overseas travel entitlements and are included at an aggregate level by Senator or Member in the report referred to in part 1). Domestic travel costs for MOP(S) Act employees, including staff accompanying ministers and parliamentary secretaries on domestic travel, is included at an aggregate level in the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act Annual Report* which is tabled in the Parliament and published on the Finance website.
3. See attached.

**The travel costs of departmental officers accompanying the Prime Minister and other portfolio ministers are as follows:**

<b>Purpose of Trip</b>	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to United Arab Emirates; Afghanistan; Switzerland; Belgium	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to Vietnam; Malaysia; Indonesia	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to Republic of Korea; Japan	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to Portugal	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to New Zealand
<b>Minister accompanied</b>	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister
<b>Travel</b>	\$15,966	\$25,647	\$22,922	\$8,432	\$1,727
<b>Accommodation/food/beverages</b>	\$13,329	\$10,152	\$21,599	\$8,889	\$2,738
<b>Security/gifts/entertainment</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Other expenses</b>	\$362	\$168	\$102	\$94	\$94
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,658</b>	<b>\$35,969</b>	<b>\$44,624</b>	<b>\$17,415</b>	<b>\$4,559</b>

<b>Purpose of Trip</b>	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to the United States of America	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to New Zealand	Advance & coordinate the Prime Minister's visit to Japan; Republic of Korea; China; United Kingdom	Trip to Zurich for World Cup Bid announcement	Trip to Delhi for the Commonwealth Games*
<b>Minister accompanied</b>	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Minister for Sport	Minister for Sport
<b>Travel</b>	\$7,972	\$1,370	\$24,943	\$10,851	\$5,566
<b>Accommodation food/beverages</b>	\$23,192	\$337	\$16,246	\$1,078	\$1,775
<b>Security/gifts/entertainment</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Other expenses</b>	149	\$47	\$110	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,314</b>	<b>\$1,754</b>	<b>\$41,300</b>	<b>\$11,929</b>	<b>\$7,622</b>

\* The cost of this travel was met by the Department of Health and Ageing, as the Senior Officer was still an employee of the Department prior to the implementation of machinery of government changes.