

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Corporate Services Group**

**Question No. 117**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 23 February 2009:**

Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates?

a) If so, where was the travel and what was the duration? What was the total cost of:

- i) travel
- ii) accommodation, and
- iii) any other expenses?

b) How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?

For these staff/family, what was the cost of:

- i) travel
- ii) accommodation, and
- iii) any other expenses?

c) How many officers from the Department accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?

In relation to these Departmental officers, what was the total cost of:

- i) travel
- ii) accommodation, and
- iii) any other expenses?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Attorney-General undertook four ministerial visits during the period 26 May 2008 and 23 February 2009. Details of each of the visits are provided at [Attachment A](#).

The Minister for Home Affairs undertook four ministerial visits during the period 26 May 2008 and 23 February 2009. Details of each of the visits are provided at [Attachment B](#).

Costs associated with official travel by ministers, parliamentary secretaries, accompanying spouses (where relevant) and accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Dates, destinations, the purpose and aggregate costs of all official overseas travel are tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled '*Parliamentarians' Travel Paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*'.

## Attorney-General's Portfolio – Overseas Ministerial Travel

## Attorney-General

	Attorney-General	Attorney-General	Attorney-General	Attorney-General
<b>Trip Number</b>	1	2	3	4
<b>Country</b>	New Zealand	United Kingdom	New Zealand	New Zealand
<b>City/s</b>	Wellington	Edinburgh	Christchurch, Canterbury	Wellington
<b>Period of travel</b>	13-15 June 2008	5-12 July 2008	23-27 July 2008	6-16 January 2008
<b>Nights overseas</b>	2 nights	7 nights	4 nights <sup>(1)</sup>	10 nights <sup>(4)</sup>
<b>Number of meetings</b>	2-day ANZLF program	4-day CLMM program	2 meetings + 2-day SCAG program	11 meetings
<b>Purpose</b>	Attend Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF)	Attend Commonwealth Law Minister's Meeting (CLMM)	Attend Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG)  Signing of Trans-Tasman Treaty on Court Proceedings and Regulatory Enforcement	Meet with ministerial counterparts and senior government officials in relation to counter-terrorism, civil justice and other bilateral issues
<b>Number of accompanying staff</b>	One	One	Two	One
<b>Number of accompanying family</b>	One	N/A	Three <sup>(2)</sup>	Three <sup>(5)</sup>
<b>Number of accompanying Departmental officials</b>	N/A	Two (AGD)	Four (AGD) <sup>(3)</sup>	One (AGD)
<b>Cost of Departmental officials travel</b>	\$ -	\$ 23,916.00	\$ 10,216.00	\$ 2,069.00
<b>Cost of Departmental officials accommodation</b>	\$ -	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 1,439.00	\$ -
<b>Cost of Departmental officials other costs</b>	\$ -	\$ 2,821.00	\$ 1,007.00	\$ 637.00
<b>Total Departmental costs</b>	\$ -	\$ 31,087.00	\$ 12,662.00	\$ 2,706.00

**Notes**

(1) - The Attorney-General's visit to New Zealand was for a total of four days, with two of these days taken as leave approved by the Prime Minister. All costs borne during the period of leave were met personally by the Attorney-General.

(2) - The Attorney-General was accompanied by his wife and by two children on the visit to New Zealand. All costs associated with the children were met personally by the Attorney.

(3) - The four Department officials who accompanied the Attorney-General and Minister on the visit to New Zealand also participated in other meetings, and some of their costs relate to this work. One official travelled primarily for the treaty signing and related meetings, and did not attend SCAG.

(4) - The Attorney-General's visit to New Zealand was for a total of ten days, with seven of these days taken as leave approved by the Prime Minister. All costs borne during the period of leave were met personally by the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General also met the cost of his family's and his own airfares.

(5) - The Attorney-General was accompanied by his wife and by two children on the visit to New Zealand. All costs associated with the children were met personally by the Attorney.

**Attachment B**

**Attorney-General's Portfolio – Overseas Ministerial Travel**

**Minister for Home Affairs**

	Minister for Home Affairs	Minister for Home Affairs	Minister for Home Affairs	Minister for Home Affairs
<b>Trip Number</b>	1	2	3	4
<b>Country</b>	Samoa	East Timor	New Zealand	Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand
<b>City/s</b>	Apia	East Timor	Canterbury	Semarang, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok
<b>Period of travel</b>	8-12 June 2008	2-5 July 2008	23-25 July 2008	2-10 August 2008
<b>Nights overseas</b>	3 nights	3 nights	2 nights	8 nights
<b>Number of meetings</b>	7 meetings	13 meetings	2-day SCAG program	22 meetings
<b>Purpose</b>	Meet ministerial counterparts and senior government officials in relation to law enforcement, border protection and legal assistance initiatives	Meet ministerial counterparts and senior government officials in relation to law enforcement, border protection and legal assistance initiatives	Attend Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG)	Joint visit with Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to meet ministerial counterparts and key regional partners on irregular migration, people smuggling and trafficking matters
<b>Number of accompanying staff</b>	N/A	One	One	One
<b>Number of accompanying family</b>	One	N/A	N/A	One
<b>Number of accompanying Departmental officials</b>	N/A	One (AFP)	Four (AGD)	Three (One AFP, One AGD, One ACS)
<b>Cost of Departmental officials travel</b>	\$ -	\$ 3,235.00	<i>Included in AG Visit # 3</i>	\$ 21,662.00
<b>Cost of Departmental officials accommodation</b>	\$ -	\$ 399.00		\$ 3,120.00
<b>Cost of Departmental officials other costs</b>	\$ -	\$ 31.00		\$ 2,647.00
<b>Total Departmental costs</b>	\$ -	\$ 3,665.00	\$ -	\$ 27,429.00