

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(48) Output: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

Community Cabinets

- (a) What was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates?
- (b) How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting?
- (c) What was the total cost of this travel?
- (d) What was the total cost to the Department of the Community Cabinet?
- (e) What was the total cost to the Department and Ministerial offices of the Community Cabinet?

Answer:

(a) The cost of the Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet since Budget Estimates is in the order of \$12 900.

(b) Details of how many Ministerial staff and Departmental officers who travelled with the Minister for each Community Cabinet meeting that the Minister attended are set out below:

August 2008 Community Cabinet Meeting in South Australia (SA)

One Ministerial staff member travelled with the Minister for the meeting.

Two Departmental officers attended the meeting. The Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), travelled to the meeting. The DIAC SA State Director also attended the meeting.

September 2008 Community Cabinet Meeting in New South Wales (NSW)

One Ministerial staff member travelled with the Minister to the meeting.

Nil Departmental officers travelled with the Minister to the meeting.

November 2008 Community Cabinet Meeting in Tasmania (TAS)

One Ministerial staff member travelled with the Minister to the meeting.

Two Departmental officers attended the meeting. The DIAC Secretary travelled to the meeting. The DIAC TAS State Director also attended the meeting.

February 2009 Community Cabinet Meeting in NSW

Three Ministerial staff members travelled with the Minister to the meeting.

Three Departmental officers attended the meeting. The DIAC Secretary and the Secretary's Executive Officer travelled to the meeting. The DIAC NSW State Director also attended the meeting.

(c) The total cost of this travel was in the order of \$5050.

(d) The total cost to the Department was in the order of \$6550.

(e) The total cost to the Department and the Minister's office was in the order of \$27 950.

Please note:

- costs are as at 16 March 2009 and have been rounded to the nearest \$50; and
- costs relating to the Minister and Ministerial staff are based on advice from the Department of Finance and Deregulation.