

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 83

Senator Barnaby Joyce asked the following question at the hearing of 22 February 2011:

- a) What was the total contribution of the Commonwealth to one of the funerals in Sydney in February, 2011 including the cost of travel and accommodation for family?
- b) Please provide a detailed breakdown of what these costs were spent on.
- c) How was the option to hold the funerals in Sydney determined? Were any other options considered? If so, what were they and on what grounds were they ruled out?

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

- a) The average cost to the AFP for a funeral in Sydney from SIEV 221 was \$31,794.26.
- b) The average cost per interment for the AFP of \$31,794.26 includes:
 - \$7,486.83 for transportation of deceased from Christmas Island to Sydney;
 - \$2,100 for transportation of deceased from Sydney Airport to Lidcombe Mortuary;
 - \$14, 525.08 for preparation of the deceased, including embalming, prior to removal from Christmas Island.
 - \$7,682.35 for funeral cost (detailed below).

The average funeral cost of \$7,682.35 includes:

- Purchase of plots;
 - Chapel service;
 - Engagement of clerics;
 - Funeral directors fees;
 - Transportation of deceased;
 - Ground lowering devices; and
 - Palls
- c) The WA Coroner advised that repatriation was a matter for the Commonwealth, given that Christmas Island is a Commonwealth Territory.

The decision to hold the funerals in Sydney was that of the Senior Next of Kin.