

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

**Question No. 95**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November:**

Travel costs

- a) 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).
- b) 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). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- c) What travel is planned for the rest of from 7 September 2013? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- d) What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- e) What is the policy for business class airfare tickets?
- f) Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
- g) When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

Does the department elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

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

- a) The current Attorney-General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, has not undertaken any official overseas travel in 2013/14 to date.

The current Minister for Justice, the Hon Michael Keenan MP, has not undertaken any official overseas travel in 2013/14 to date.

The former Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP, undertook one (1) official overseas ministerial visit in 2013/14. The total costs incurred by the Department in relation to departmental staff accompanying the former Attorney-General on official overseas ministerial travel for 2013/14 was approximately \$12,503.

The former Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, the Hon Jason Clare MP, undertook one (1) official overseas ministerial visit in 2013/14. The total costs incurred by the Department in relation to departmental staff accompanying the former Minister for Home Affairs and Justice on official overseas ministerial travel for 2013/14 was approximately \$22,492.

a.

Description		Exclusive of GST & Inclusive of Taxes, if Applicable (\$)
Short Term Vehicle Hire		<b>\$386,999</b>
Domestic Travel Allowance & Motor Vehicle Allowance		<b>\$478,121</b>
Overseas Airfares	Economy/ Business/First	<b>\$528,603</b>
Domestic Airfares	Economy/ Business	<b>\$1,236,750</b>
Domestic Accommodation		<b>\$699,707</b>
Overseas Travel Allowance and Accommodation		<b>\$264,057</b>
Total		<b>\$3,594,238</b>

- b. The Department expects that travel will be undertaken as necessary in response to normal operational requirements for the remainder of the financial year. To provide further detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
- c. The Department expects that travel will be undertaken as necessary in response to normal operational requirements for the remainder of the calendar year. To provide further detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
- d. The Department's policy for domestic travel provides that Non-SES staff are required to travel economy class air travel, SES are entitled to travel business class air travel except for Canberra to Melbourne return and Canberra to Sydney return where economy class is required. For international travel, business class is the entitlement for all air travel. The Secretary is entitled to first class travel under the Remuneration Tribunal determination.

- e. Yes, the Department provides membership to Qantas Club and Virgin Lounge for 69 employees.
- f. No, SES officers do not take administrative support staff when travelling.