

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vowles to the Minister for Education:

Recommendation to use Latitude Travel for Minister Chandler's Trip to the UK and USA

Following on from your assertion in the Legislative Assembly in relation to your trip to the UK and USA in September 2013 that "It was left to the Department of Lands and Planning to put together that tour and they chose the travel agent at the time":

- a) How do you reconcile your statement with Mr Coleman's recent evidence to the PAC that "Because the Minister's office generally used that travel agent, we were asked to see whether we had the capacity to do so?
- b) Which statement is true, yours or Mr Coleman's?
- c) Who asked Mr Coleman and your then Department to utilise Latitude Travel for your trip to the UK and USA which cost taxpayers more than \$100,000?

Answer:

- a) Both statements are correct. The Department had the capacity to use Latitude Travel to make the travel booking but they could equally have used any other Licensed Travel Agent. At the time of booking there was no knowledge of any issue with Latitude Travel's services and the Department saw no reason not to use Latitude Travel in this instance.
- b) Both statements are true.
- c) There was no direction from my office to the Department of Lands Planning and Environment to use Latitude Travel.