

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vowles to the Minister for Education:

Whole of Government Audit of Latitude Travel – Audit Methodology

With respect to the whole of government audit of Latitude Travel initiated by the Department of the Chief Minister in December 2015:

- (a) What were the terms of reference and detailed audit methodology used by your Department to audit all relevant transactions?
- (b) Did the audit cover charters used by Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly and public sector employees, if any?
- (c) If so, what were the findings?
- (d) Was a report prepared following completion of the audit?
- (e) If so, would you provide me with a copy of the audit report?

ANSWER

- (a) The Department of the Chief Minister instructed agencies to review all travel booked through Latitude Travel to determine if Government received value for money. To do this expenditure reports were compared to similar bookings made through other travel providers where comparative data existed. For overseas travel comparative data was sought from internet travel providers and from the Corporate Travel Provider. While the comparative data may not have reflected the conditions that existed at the time of booking it did provide a benchmark to assess whether transactions required further investigations through the NT Police.
- (b) The audit covered all transactions made through Latitude Travel.

- (c) No bookings made through the Department of the Chief Minister on behalf of the Minister for Education or his staff were considered suspicious or worthy of further investigation.
- (d) Yes, a summary report was provided to the Chief Executive Officer.
- (e) No. Internal Audit activity is undertaken to advise the Chief Executive Officer of compliance with the agency's obligations and is not generally made available outside of the agency.