

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Response to Written Question

Minister	The Hon Peter Chandler MLA
Portfolio	Education
Agency	Department of Education

Question Reference	WQ312 – Agency Travel
From	Ms Nicole Manison MLA

Question

Agency Travel

1. Please provide the total cost of travel in the Department of Education broken down into:
 - a. International;
 - b. Interstate; and
 - c. Intrastate.
2. Please provide details and costs of all travel undertaken by the Minister that was paid for by the Department of Education, including travel on charters. In the case of the Department of Chief Minister please provide this information for all costs paid for by the agency outside of their responsibilities under Output Group 8.0 Government Business Support.
3. Please provide details and costs of all travel undertaken by Ministerial staff that was paid for by the agency, including travel on charters.
4. Detail all travel and costs undertaken through Latitude Travel.

Answer

** Note: 30 June 2015 financial year figures are not yet available as the financial year accounting systems are yet to close. A supplementary response will be provided by 17 August 2015.*

Question 1

Total cost of travel in Department of Education for the financial year to 31 March 2015:

Travel Type	Amount (\$000)
International	73
Interstate	591
Intrastate	2 891
TOTAL	3 555

Question 2 and 3

Costs for Minister and Ministerial staff are in the table below:

Total cost of travel for the Minister Chandler and his ministerial advisers inclusive of full charter cost:

Traveller	Destination	Travel costs including charters (\$)
Minister Chandler and his Ministerial staff(including full charter cost)	Cape York Wellington NZ Central Australia Singapore Yuendumu/Papunya	56 010

Cost of travel for Minister Chandler and his Ministerial staff, with charter costs apportioned on a pro rata basis:

Traveller	Destination	Travel costs including charters (\$)
Minister Chandler (including pro rata charter cost)	Cape York Wellington NZ Central Australia Singapore Yuendumu/Papunya	18 749
Ministerial staff for Minister Chandler (including pro rata charter cost)	Cape York Wellington NZ Central Australia Singapore Yuendumu/Papunya	18 689
TOTAL		37 438

Charter cost apportioned to travellers, other than Minister Chandler and Minister Chandler's Ministerial staff is \$18 572. Details of individual trips are provided in the following tables:

Cape York Peninsula, Australia:

As part of the development of the Indigenous Education Review Implementation Strategy, travel was undertaken by senior departmental officers, Good to Great Schools officers and the Minister to observe the Direct Instruction model used in Good to Great Schools and to inspect a regional boarding facility in Weipa. A chartered aircraft was required for three days to visit schools in Cooktown, Aurukun, Weipa and Pormpuraaw.

Total cost for Minister Chandler and his ministerial staff (including full cost of charter)	\$ 21 536
Pro rata travel cost for Minister Chandler with charter flights	\$ 4 658
Pro rata travel cost for Minister Chandler's ministerial staff (1)	\$ 4 367
Pro rata charter cost for other passengers/travellers (6)	\$ 12 511

Wellington, New Zealand:

As part of developing the Northern Territory Open Education Centre project, the Minister travelled with the Deputy Chief Executive, the Executive Director Secondary Education, and the NTOEC School Council Chairperson and Principal to visit the Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu (The Correspondence School) to investigate programs, systems and infrastructure delivered by a best practice education and distance learning provider.

Total cost for Minister Chandler and his ministerial staff	\$ 8 182
Travel cost for Minister Chandler	\$ 3 936
Travel cost for Minister Chandler's ministerial staff (1)	\$ 4 246

Central Australia:

Travel was undertaken to visit schools in the Barkly region, including Canteen Creek, Murray Downs and Alekarengge, including travel by chartered aircraft. The Chief Executive was visiting these schools and his office chartered an aircraft. The Minister was invited to accompany the Chief Executive if he was available.

Total cost for Minister Chandler and his ministerial staff (including full cost of charter)	\$ 7 978
Pro rata travel cost for Minister Chandler with charter flights	\$ 2 154
Pro rata travel cost for Minister Chandler's ministerial staff (1) with charter flights	\$ 1 884
Pro rata charter cost for other passengers/travellers (4)	\$ 3 940

Singapore:

Travel was undertaken by the Chief Executive, the Business Case Consultant and the Minister to visit international schools related to the development of a business case for the Darwin International Grammar School.

Total cost for Minister Chandler and his ministerial staff	\$ 13 586
Travel cost for Minister Chandler	\$ 6 688
Travel cost for Minister Chandler's ministerial staff (1)	\$ 6 898

Yuendumu/Papunya:

Travel was undertaken to visit remote schools in the Alice Springs region including Docker River, Finke, Kintore, Mutijulu, Yuendumu and Papunya in a chartered aircraft. The Chief Executive was visiting these schools and his office chartered an aircraft. The Minister was invited to accompany the Chief Executive if he was available.

Total cost for Minister Chandler and his ministerial staff (including full cost of charter)	\$ 4 728
Pro rata travel cost for Minister Chandler with charter flights	\$ 1 313

Pro rata travel cost for Minister Chandler's ministerial staff (1) with charter flights	\$ 1 294
Pro rata charter cost for other passengers/travellers (4)	\$ 2 121

Additional information:

The Minister and his adviser travelled with the educational leaders study tour to Anhui Province, China, from 1-11 November 2014.

In June 2014 the Department of Education provided a grant to the Centre for School Leadership at Charles Darwin University towards a study tour to China and Hong Kong as part of the Educational Leaders Program. The Centre for School Leadership implemented a tender process through Charles Darwin University procedures for a provider to design and conduct the program for school leaders and this included developing the study tour.

Question 4.

No payments were made to Latitude Travel by the department.

Departmental staff travelled to China as part of the Educational Leaders Program, which was arranged by the Centre for School Leadership, through Latitude Travel.