

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Chief Minister:

Member for Braitling Travel Allowance

1. In 2015 (1st January to 31st December 2015) how much "Travel Allowance" did the Member for Braitling (the Chief Minister) receive for nights he stayed in Darwin?
2. Please provide the number of nights and the amount paid for each night or relevant payment period.

ANSWER

For the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, I received \$81,550 for 233 nights in Darwin.

In comparison, other senior Ministers who lived remote of Darwin also spent many nights in Darwin on Parliamentary and Government business.

A good example is the Member for Nhulunbuy, who as Treasurer, spent 179 nights in Darwin in an official capacity in 2006-2007.

Further, during your period as Deputy Chief Minister from 29 August 2012 to 6 March 2013, a period of just over six months, you spent 93 nights in Darwin. Had you remained in this role, it is highly possible the full year projection would be double that, at 186 nights.

For the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, I stayed in Darwin 233 nights. Travel allowance of \$350 per night was paid in accordance with Schedule 2 Part B of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination No. 1 of 2013.

It should be noted that I have chosen the option of \$350 per night when more costly options are available.

Many MLAs choose other available options, including Schedule 2 Part A of the RTD No. 1 of 2013, which pays \$450 per night where commercial accommodation is used.

My duties and responsibilities as Chief Minister are vast and the system should promote the opportunity for a remote living MLA being Chief Minister, or Deputy Chief Minister, which as you would realise means they must spend huge amounts of time in Darwin.