

Question on notice no. 146

Portfolio question number: F146

2024-25 Supplementary budget estimates

Finance and Public Administration Committee, Finance Portfolio

Senator David Pocock: asked the Department of Finance on 20 November 2024—

I understand various questions have been asked about this, but given the public interest and importance of this, please can you provide details about:

Lounge membership

1. Who in the Department has a Qantas Chairman's Lounge membership - name and position?
2. Who in the Department has a Virgin Australia Beyond Lounge membership - name and position?
1. How many spouses of officials also have access to either lounge (I'm not asking for names on this question, just numbers) ?

Domestic flights

1. How many domestic flights have the SES taken on Qantas during this term of parliament?
2. How many domestic flights have the SES taken on Virgin during this term of parliament?
3. How many domestic flights have the SES taken on other commercial airlines during this term of parliament?
4. How many domestic flights have staff taken on Qantas during this term of parliament?
5. How many domestic flights have staff taken on Virgin during this term of parliament?
6. How many domestic flights have staff taken on other commercial airlines during this term of parliament?

Flight upgrades

1. How many upgrades have the SES received from Qantas during this term of parliament?
2. How many upgrades have the SES received from Virgin during this term of parliament?
3. How many upgrades have the SES received from other airlines during this term of parliament?
4. How many upgrades have non-SES staff received on domestic flights during this term of parliament?

Frequent flyer memberships

1. How many SES have the following statuses on their frequent flyer memberships?
Qantas Lifetime Silver

Qantas Lifetime Gold
Qantas Lifetime Platinum
Virgin Forever Gold
Virgin Platinum Plus

2. How many non-SES staff have the following statuses on their frequent flyer memberships?

Qantas Lifetime Silver
Qantas Lifetime Gold
Qantas Lifetime Platinum
Virgin Forever Gold
Virgin Platinum Plus

Answer —

See attached.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-25

Finance Portfolio
5 November 2024

Department/Agency: Finance portfolio

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Travel arrangements

Senator: David Pocock

Question reference number: F146

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 19 December 2024

Number of pages: 5

Question:

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Frequent flyer memberships

1. How many SES have the following statuses on their frequent flyer memberships?
 - Qantas Lifetime Silver
 - Qantas Lifetime Gold
 - Qantas Lifetime Platinum
 - Virgin Forever Gold
 - Virgin Platinum Plus
2. How many non-SES staff have the following statuses on their frequent flyer memberships?
 - Qantas Lifetime Silver
 - Qantas Lifetime Gold
 - Qantas Lifetime Platinum
 - Virgin Forever Gold
 - Virgin Platinum Plus

Answer:

Department of Finance

Lounge membership

1. The following officials have membership of the Qantas Chairmans's Lounge:
 - Secretary, Jenny Wilkinson
 - Deputy Secretary, Cath Patterson
 - Deputy Secretary, Nathan Williamson
 - Deputy Secretary, Richard Windeyer
 - Deputy Secretary, Andrew Jagers
2. The following officials have membership of the Virgin Australia Beyond Lounge:
 - Secretary, Jenny Wilkinson
 - Deputy Secretary, Nathan Williamson
 - Deputy Secretary, Richard Windeyer
 - Deputy Secretary, Andrew Jagers
3. 5 (2 were separately invited).

Domestic flights

For the period 21 May 2022 to 31 October 2024:

1. 1,219
2. 405
3. 16
4. 4,071
5. 2,152
6. 143

Flight upgrades

No upgrades have been recorded in our travel management system for the period 21 May 2022 to 31 October 2024.

Frequent flyer memberships

The status of an individual's frequent flyer membership is not held by Department of Finance.

Australian Electoral Commission

Lounge membership

1. Tom Rogers, Electoral Commissioner.
2. Tom Rogers, Electoral Commissioner.
3. 1 spouse has access to both Qantas Chairman's Lounge and the Virgin Australia Beyond Lounge.

Domestic flights

The data is sourced directly from the Corporate Travel Management system under the Whole of Australian Government Travel Arrangements. The data was extracted at a point in time. Due to the volume of transactions, the AEC has undertaken a high-level review only to exclude flights that have been refunded or cancelled. For the period 21 May 2022 to 31 October 2024:

1. 1,543.
2. 466.
3. 177.
4. 9,607 (including SES domestic flights).
5. 4,133 (including SES domestic flights).
6. 933 (including SES domestic flights).

Flight upgrades

1. AEC's travel management system does not record upgrades. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
2. As above.
3. As above.
4. As above.

Frequent flyer memberships

Under the Whole of Australian Government Travel Arrangements, Australian Government travellers are not permitted to accrue frequent flyer points on travel.

1. The status of frequent flyer memberships of an individual is not held by the AEC.
2. The status of frequent flyer memberships of an individual is not held by the AEC.

Digital Transformation Agency

Lounge membership

1. Chris Fechner, Chief Executive Officer
2. Nil.
3. 1

Domestic flights

1. 246
2. 146
3. 6
4. 1031
5. 729
6. 132

Flight upgrades

1. One. The upgrade was received due to operational reasons to allow stand-by passengers to be boarded. The upgrade was not requested or required by the DTA traveller.
2. Nil.
3. Nil.
4. Nil.

Frequent flyer memberships

- 1-2. The DTA does not maintain data on the status of individual's frequent flyer memberships.

Future Fund Management Agency

Lounge membership

- 1-2. The Future Fund's gifts and benefits register is available on the website.
3. 1

Domestic flights

For the period 21 May 2022 - 31 October 2024:

1. 137
2. 34
3. 1
4. 2,906
5. 1,168
6. 23

Flight upgrades

- 1-4. Future Fund's systems do not capture the information requested.

Frequent flyer memberships

- 1-2. Future Fund's systems do not capture the information requested.

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

Lounge membership

1. Annwyn Godwin, CEO
2. Nil
3. Nil

Domestic flights

1. 68
2. 25
3. Nil
4. 52
5. 18
6. Nil

Flight upgrades

1. Nil
2. Nil
3. Nil
4. Nil

Frequent flyer memberships

Under the Whole of Australian Government Travel Arrangements, Australian Government travellers are not permitted to accrue frequent flyer points on travel.

1-2. IPEA does not maintain data on the status of individual's frequent flyer memberships.