CLP Government Have More Ministerial Travel Questions To Answer

Territory Labor’s Government Accountability Shadow Nicole Manison today issued questions to CLP Government Ministers on Ministerial travel.

“We are asking several outstanding questions to the CLP which will serve to provide Territorians open and transparent answers on travel,” Ms Manison said.

“CLP Ministers who have used Latitude Travel have questions to answer and we are doing this so that the CLP Government understands they must be accountable to the public.

“There is absolutely nothing stopping Adam Giles from calling for a full audit on every one of his Ministerial Offices which had dealings with Latitude Travel.”

The questions on notice for the CLP Government to answer are:

Ministerial Travel

1. What is the total value of expenditure booked through Latitude Travel in each Minister’s office in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 (year to date)?

2. For travel booked through Latitude Travel by each Minister’s office in each of the above financial years:
   (a) How many separate trips were undertaken?
   (b) What was the cost of each trip?
   (c) Who recommended and who approved Latitude Travel as the travel agent for each trip?

3. In relation to 2(a) above, how many separate invoices have been issued by Latitude travel?

4. Given the lodgement of a fraudulent invoice by Latitude Travel to the Department of the Chief Minister in relation to travel undertaken by Minister Price and her senior Adviser, have NT Police or any other Agency investigated every invoice submitted by Latitude Travel to the Government for payment?

5. Has any Minister, ministerial advisor or public servant directed, or suggested that Ministerial travel should be booked through Latitude Travel?

6. Why was Latitude Travel selected to book trips valued at $90,000 in 2013/14 and 2014/15 by Minister Chandler’s office and who decided to use Latitude Travel as the agent?

7. What was the value of the grant provided by the Department of Education to CDU in June 2014 towards a study tour of China and Hong Kong?
8. Who approved the grant?

9. How much of this grant money was used to cover the cost of Minister Chandler’s trip to China and Hong Kong in November 2014?

10. How much of this Grant money was used to cover the cost of public servants travelling to China and Hong Kong in November 2014?

11. Why was grant money provided to CDU used to pay for Ministerial and public servant travel?

12. Who organised the travel to China and Hong Kong?

13. What is the total cost of the trip taken by Minister Chandler, his staff and the Planning Commissioner to the UK and USA in September 2013?

14. Which travel agent organised the trip and on whose recommendation was the travel agent selected?

15. Why did the Minister and his staff personally request a breakdown of costs for the UK/USA trip?

16. Did they receive the cost break down?

17. Following on from an undertaking in his answer to a question without notice on 3 December 2015, what facts and information about the cost of this trip has the Minister obtained?

18. In response to an FOI application on 23 January 2015 in relation to travel organised by Latitude Travel, why did DCM say they held no information within the scope of the application?

19. Who decided that travel and related services valued at more than $300,000 incurred in 2013/14 and 2014/15 should be booked with Latitude Travel by Minister Price’s office?

20. Did relatives of Minister Price ever accompany her on official overseas travel?

21. Did Minister Price ever ask her Senior Adviser or was she ever told who paid for her Senior Adviser’s relative to travel to New York in March 2014?

22. When did Minister Price first become aware that Latitude Travel paid for her Senior Adviser’s relative to travel to New York in March 2014?

23. How did she find out?

24. When did the Chief Minister first become aware of questionable activity involving Ministerial or Departmental travel organised by Latitude Travel?

25. What steps did the Chief Minister take to investigate or otherwise assure himself that there were no breaches of accountability, probity or the law in relation to travel organised by Latitude Travel.

26. Has the Chief Minister received briefings or information from DCM or Police in relation to Latitude Travel?

27. When did Minister Chandler first become aware of questionable activity involving Ministerial or Departmental travel organised by Latitude Travel?

28. What steps did Minister Chandler take to investigate or otherwise assure himself that there were no breaches of accountability, probity or the law in relation to Latitude Travel?
29. Has Minister Chandler received briefings or information from Police or DLPE in relation to these matters?

30. When did Minister Price first become aware of questionable activity involving Ministerial travel organised by Latitude Travel?

31. What steps did Minister Price take to investigate or otherwise assure herself that there were no breaches of accountability, probity or the law in relation to Latitude Travel?

32. Has Minister Price ever received a briefing from her Department in relation to Latitude travel?

33. Who decided to restrict the period covered by DCM’s Northern Territory Travel Review from 1 July 14 to 15 June 15?

34. Why wasn’t a comprehensive review of all CLP Ministerial travel undertaken including expenditure on bookings with Latitude Travel?

35. Will the Chief Minister ensure that a thorough Police investigation is undertaken of all Ministerial and Departmental travel and related services organised by Latitude Travel?

**Departmental Travel**

36. What is the total value of expenditure booked through Latitude Travel in Government Departments in 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 (year to date)?

37. For travel booked through Latitude Travel by Government Departments in each of the above financial years:

   (a) How many separate trips were undertaken?

   (b) What was the cost of each trip?

   (c) Who recommended and who approved Latitude Travel as the travel agent for each trip?

38. In relation to 38(a) above, how many separate invoices have been issued by Latitude travel?

39. Have any Government Department’s been directed or subject to suggestions from Ministerial offices to utilise Latitude Travel?

40. How many “trip files” for senior public servants have been set up by Latitude travel?

41. Given the lodgement of a fraudulent invoice by Latitude Travel to the Department of the Chief Minister in relation to travel undertaken by Minister Price and her senior Adviser, what steps will relevant CEO’s take to ensure that false invoices have not been submitted to their Agencies?

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