

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Frequency of shared COMCAR vehicles

Question reference number: F35

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 76, 24 February 2009

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Collins asked:

Just before you go back to Senator Ferguson, I have a quick question based on my recent experience. For the first time since 1995, when I was recently in Adelaide, I was asked if I was happy to share a car. I am curious about the extent to which that occurs. On that occasion I was quite happy to share a car with the other senator, but it is the first time I have ever had COMCAR ask if I was prepared to share a car. I am curious about the degree to which that behaviour now occurs.

Mr Sweeney—I am unaware of that instance, but I can certainly find out the background and let you know.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—The frequency of that is what I am interested in.

Answer:

Clients are asked to share vehicles on an infrequent basis when insufficient COMCARS, hire car vehicles and taxis are available and a number of clients are travelling at a similar time to or from the same destination.

On the day referred to by Senator Collins, all eight COMCAR vehicles in Adelaide were in service. Two vehicles were carrying Ministers and nine Senators wished to move from the same venue to the airport all within a 30 minute period. As there were no hire car vehicles available at the time, three Senators were asked if they were willing to share with their colleagues to ensure they met their flight schedules. The alternative would have been to take taxis.