

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000029

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Taxi Costs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig Joe

Question:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

1. The table below provides a summary of each department/agency's spending on taxis for the period 1 November 2013 to 28 February 2014.

Department of Health	\$'000
Department of Health (core)	130
Therapeutic Goods Administration	44
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	4
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	3
Total	183

Health Portfolio (agencies)	\$'000
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	23
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	22
Australian National Preventative Health Agency	4
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority	7
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	16
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority	10
Australian Sports Commission (including Australian Sports Foundation)	60
Cancer Australia	24
Food Standards Australia and New Zealand	10
General Practice Education and Training Ltd	8
Health Workforce Australia	46
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	10
National Blood Authority	3
National Health and Medical Research Council	14
National Health Funding Body	4
National Mental Health Commission	4
National Health Performance Authority	13
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	7
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	4
Professional Services Review Agency	7
Total	296

2. Taxi costs are a component of travel expenditure. The Department of Health undertakes travel to meet with key stakeholders to ensure health programs are adequately supported. The department funds the travel of members of expert committees which advise on a range of professional, consumer and community issues with the aim of better targeting health programs and health expenditure. Health reform initiatives require consultative and public communication activities.