

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013**

**Question: E13-065**

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Hire Cars

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question:**

- a) How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars from 7 September 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
- b) What are the reasons for hire car costs?

**Answer:**

- a) The table below provides a summary of each Department/Agency's spending on hire cars for the period 7 September 2013 to 30 November 2013.

<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Department of Health (core)*	41
Therapeutic Goods Administration	7
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	-
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	3

<b>Health Portfolio (agencies)</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	-
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	1
Australian National Preventative Health Agency	-
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Agency	-
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	5
Cancer Australia	-
Food Standards Australia New Zealand	-
General Practice Education and Training Ltd	2
Health Workforce Australia	2
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	-
National Blood Authority	1
National Health and Medical Research Council	-
National Health Performance Authority	-
National Health Funding Body	-
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	3
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	-
Professional Services Review Agency	-

*\* Please note that all figures quoted in the answer are prior to the transfer of functions through the recent Machinery of Government change.*

- b) Hire car 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. Hire cars are used when it is more efficient, cost effective and more convenient than using taxi services.