

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-064

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Taxi Costs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

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

Answer:

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

Department of Health	\$'000
Department of Health (core)*	152
Therapeutic Goods Administration	38
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	4
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	3

Health Portfolio (agencies)	\$'000
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	17
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	18
Australian National Preventative Health Agency	8
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Agency	9
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	21
Cancer Australia	13
Food Standards Australia New Zealand	11
General Practice Education and Training Ltd	6
Health Workforce Australia	29
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	16
National Blood Authority	16
National Health and Medical Research Council	45
National Health Performance Authority	8
National Health Funding Body	4
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	5
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	1
Professional Services Review Agency	9

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

- b) 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.