

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Portfolio**

**Question No. 115**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:**

Taxi Costs

- 1)
  - a) How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
  - b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?
- 2)
  - a) How much did each department/agency spend on taxis in 2011-12? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
  - b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

**Attorney-General's Department**

1) a)

Business group and amount	Total \$227,067
Executive Group	<b>\$3,251</b>
Civil Justice & Legal Services	<b>\$66,862</b>
National Security & Criminal Justice Group	<b>\$112,212</b>
Strategic Policy & Coordination Group	<b>\$37,011</b>
Retired Chief Justices	<b>\$7,461</b>
Solicitor-General	<b>\$270</b>

2) a)

Business group and amount	Total \$625,200
Executive Group	<b>\$13,383</b>
Civil Justice & Legal Services	<b>\$126,583</b>
National Security & Criminal Justice Group	<b>\$315,736</b>
Strategic Policy & Coordination Group	<b>\$146,124</b>
Retired Chief Justices	<b>\$21,439</b>
Solicitor General	<b>\$1,935</b>

1)-2) b) Taxis are used as a means of transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required as part of their official duties.

## Australian Crime Commission

1)a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$ 70,774	Business Group 1 Intervention & Prevention = \$ 18,638
	Business Group 2 Fusion, Target Development and Performance = \$ 20,286
	Business Group 3 People and Business Services: = \$ 10,012
	Charges yet to be allocated to a Business Group = \$ 21,839

b) Taxis are used as a means of transport for transfers to and from airports and to enable employees to attend to meetings or official events as required by their official duties.

2)

a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$ 276,956	Business Group 1 Intervention & Prevention = \$ 106,480
	Business Group 2 Fusion, Target Development and Performance = \$ 89,342
	Business Group 3 People and Business Services: = \$ 81,134

b) Taxis are used as a means of transport for transfers to and from airports and to enable employees to attend to meetings or official events as required by their official duties.

## Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

1) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount	
\$287,798.98	Border Protection Command	\$3,641.88
	Cargo & Trade	\$31,209.61
	Compliance & Enforcement	\$82,642.12
	Executive	\$899.32
	Information Technology	\$11,212.66
	Intelligence & Targeting	\$28,542.30
	Maritime Operations	
	Support	\$68,001.38
	Passengers	\$22,471.98
	People & Corporate Services	\$28,504.84
	Strategy, Finance & Integrity	\$10,626.35
	Trainees & Graduates	\$46.54

2) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount	
\$1,178,738.24	Border Protection Command	\$16,358.46
	Cargo & Trade	\$113,265.84
	Compliance & Enforcement	\$321,305.97
	Executive	\$4,618.16
	Information Technology	\$27,759.95
	Intelligence & Targeting	\$101,255.74
	Maritime Operations	
	Support	\$279,782.01
	Passengers	\$109,703.48
	People & Corporate Services	\$153,478.38
	Strategy, Finance & Integrity	\$48,745.09
	Trainees & Graduates	\$2,465.16

1) - 2) b) Taxis are used as a means of transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required by their work. All taxis are for official purposes.

**Australian Federal Police**

1a)

	Total spend	Business group and amount	
	\$ 360,729	ACT Police	9,543
		COO	49,769
		National Security	144,721
		Operations	71,535
		Operations Support	85,161
		<b>Total</b>	<b>360,729</b>

2a)

	\$ 306,484	ACT Police	7,067
		COO	45,220
		National Security	119,961
		Operations	57,555
		Operations Support	76,681
		<b>Total</b>	<b>306,484</b>

1)-2) b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.

### Australian Government Solicitor

The Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) is a government business enterprise operating on a commercial and competitive basis in providing legal and related services to government and its agencies. AGS does not receive any Budget or other appropriations and its employees are engaged outside of the *Public Service Act 1999*. The question is therefore not applicable to AGS.

### Australian Human Rights Commission

1) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$22,882 GST Exclusive	President & Commissioners Units = \$11,966* Complaint Handling Unit = \$2,451 Other Units = \$8,465**  *\$3,831 of this amount is related to Australian Defence Force Review and is fully cost recovered from Dept of Defence.  **\$1,261 of this amount is related to the Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program and fully cost recovered from AUSAID.

2) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$31 823 GST Exclusive	President & Commissioners Units = \$13,964* Complaint Handling Unit = \$2,235 Other Units = \$15,264**  *\$4,015 of this amount is related to Australian Defence Force Review and is fully cost recovered from Dept of Defence.  **\$1,869 of this amount is related to the Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program and fully cost recovered from AUSAID.

1)-2) b) Taxis are used when required by staff attending meetings or events as required as part of their official duties.

### Australian Institute of Criminology

1) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$3,180	There are no business groups for reporting purposes <span style="float: right;">\$3,180</span>

2) a) 2011-12 Financial Year

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$19,756	There are no business groups for reporting purposes <span style="float: right;">\$19,756</span>

1) -2) b) Taxis are used as a means of transport to enable employees to attend meetings, seminars or events as required in undertaking work duties.

### Australian Law Reform Commission

1) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$2,242.74	Age Barriers to Work Inquiry <span style="float: right;">\$929.42</span> Copyright Inquiry <span style="float: right;">\$847.57</span> Executive <span style="float: right;">\$465.75</span> Corporate <span style="float: right;">0</span>

1 b) Taxis are used by the inquiry legal teams to travel to and from consultations. Taxi use by the Executive covers costs for the ALRC President to travel to official appointments, conferences or presentations on behalf of the ALRC.

2) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$10505.03	Age Barriers to Work Inquiry \$3477.02
	Commonwealth Laws & Family Violence Inquiry \$433.41
	Classification Inquiry \$2,246.13
	Copyright Inquiry \$629.45
	Executive \$2,455.58
	Corporate \$1,263.44

2) b) Taxis are used by the inquiry legal teams to travel to and from consultations. Taxi use by the Executive covers costs for the ALRC President to travel to official appointments and conferences or presentations on behalf of the ALRC. Taxi travel by the corporate team is for the Executive Director and Finance Manager to travel to and from ALRC attendances at Senate Estimates, meetings with AGD, and to attend finance training and update seminars at the DOFA.

**Australian Security Intelligence Organisation**

1) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
The information sought is not readily available as taxi costs are not separately recorded in ASIO’s financial recording system. The resources required to manually check each record to identify and collate the information sought are considered unreasonable.	

2) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
The information sought is not readily available as taxi costs are not separately recorded in ASIO’s financial recording system. The resources required to manually check each record to identify and collate the information sought are considered unreasonable.	

1)-2) b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport for staff to attend official meetings or events.

## CrimTrac

1) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount ex GST	
\$7,818.25	Chief Executive Officer Business Group	\$1,612.07
	Deputy Chief Executive Officer Business Group	\$1,296.94
	Chief Information Officer Business Group	\$4,909.24

2) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount ex GST	
\$37,093.00	Chief Executive Officer Business Group	\$5,718.15
	Deputy Chief Executive Officer Business Group	\$10,379.34
	Chief Information Officer Business Group	\$20,995.51

1) -2) b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events are required by their work.

## Family Court of Australia

1. (a) (b) The Family Court of Australia account for taxi fares, public parking and public transport as one general ledger expenditure item. The Court does not have the necessary resources to split this expenditure item. The vast majority of this expenditure item is made up of Taxi fares.

(As per QON 161 May 24 2012 response)

	a) Total spend YTD 30 September 2012	b) Business group and amount
Family Court of Australia	\$ 23,078 (GST Exclusive)	Program 1.1

b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required as part of their official duties.

2. (a) (b) The Family Court of Australia account for taxi fares, public parking and public transport as one general ledger expenditure item. The Court does not have the necessary resources to split this expenditure item. The vast majority of this expenditure item is made up of Taxi fares.

(As per QON 161 May 24 2012 response)

	a) Total spend FY 2011/2012	b) Business group and amount
Family Court of Australia	\$128,861 (GST Exclusive)	Program 1.1

### Federal Court of Australia

1)

a)

Total spend	Business group and amount						
\$28,073	<table> <tr> <td>Judges</td> <td>\$1,285</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Judges Staff</td> <td>\$9,969</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Registry</td> <td>\$16,819</td> </tr> </table>	Judges	\$1,285	Judges Staff	\$9,969	Registry	\$16,819
Judges	\$1,285						
Judges Staff	\$9,969						
Registry	\$16,819						

b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required by their work

2)

a)

Total spend	Business group and amount						
\$155,142	<table> <tr> <td>Judges</td> <td>\$15,063</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Judges Staff</td> <td>\$59,192</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Registry</td> <td>\$80,887</td> </tr> </table>	Judges	\$15,063	Judges Staff	\$59,192	Registry	\$80,887
Judges	\$15,063						
Judges Staff	\$59,192						
Registry	\$80,887						

b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required by their work

### Federal Magistrates Court of Australia

1. (a) (b) The Federal Magistrates Court of Australia account for taxi fares, public parking and public transport as one general ledger expenditure item. The Court does not have the necessary resources to split this expenditure item. The vast majority of this expenditure item is made up of Taxi fares.



	a) Total spend	b) Business group and amount
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	\$13,515 (GST Exclusive) YTD 30 September 2012	Program 1.1

b) Taxis are used as a means of transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required as part of their official duties.

2. (a) (b) The Federal Magistrates Court of Australia account for taxi fares, public parking and public transport as one general ledger expenditure item. The Court does not have the necessary resources to split this expenditure item. The vast majority of this expenditure item is made up of Taxi fares.

	a) Total spend	b) Business group and amount
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	\$ \$68,176 YTD 30 September 2012	Program 1.1

b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required by their work.

### Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

1) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$6,437 GST Exclusive	Compliance = \$1,708 Executive = \$1,964 Operations = \$974 Policy = \$1,791

2) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$8,309 GST Exclusive	Compliance = \$1,525 Executive = \$2,767 Operations = \$1,974 Policy = \$2,043

1)-2) b) Taxis are used as a means of transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required as part of their official duties.

**Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions**

1) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$29,457.70 (incl GST)	The Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP)

2) a)

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$130,824.91 (incl GST)	The Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP)

1)- 2) b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees, counsel and witnesses to attend meetings, court or events as required as part of their official duties.

**National Native Title Tribunal**

Please note: From 1 July 2012 the National Native Title Tribunal is no longer a *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* Agency, and is funded to carry out its functions as a sub-program of the Federal Court of Australia’s appropriation.

1) a) Please refer to the Federal Court’s response

2) a) 2011-12 Financial Year

Total spend	Business group and amount
\$62,211	<b>Program 1.1</b> \$62,211

b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required by their work.