

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-107

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: TAXI COSTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator McKenzie asked:

- a) How much did each Department/Agency spend on taxis in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each Department/Agency.
- b) 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.

Answer:

a)

Department/Portfolio Agency	Taxi Costs 2007/2008
Department of Health & Ageing ¹	1,214,779
Aged Care Commissioner	8,416
Aged Care Standards & Accreditation Agency Ltd	45,968
Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care	28,827
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	54,618
Australian National Preventive Health Agency ²	-
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority ²	-
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	117,904
Cancer Australia	42,643
Food Standards Australia and New Zealand	61,518
General Practice Education and Training	21,764
Health Workforce Australia ²	-
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority ²	-
National Blood Authority	27,677
National Health and Medical Research Council	120,447
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	29,624
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	10,916
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	18,040
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	n/a
Professional Services Review	8,998
Therapeutic Goods Administration	106,813
Total	1,918,952

Department/Portfolio Agency	Taxi Costs 2008/2009
Department of Health & Ageing ¹	1,004,005
Aged Care Commissioner	6,676
Aged Care Standards & Accreditation Agency Ltd	74,184
Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care	42,612
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	67,492
Australian National Preventive Health Agency ²	-
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority	14,451
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	134,795
Cancer Australia	36,041
Food Standards Australia and New Zealand	46,678
General Practice Education and Training	19,956
Health Workforce Australia ²	-
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority ²	-
National Blood Authority	26,550
National Health and Medical Research Council	62,993
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	32,103
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	6,345
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	15,045
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	n/a
Professional Services Review	10,174
Therapeutic Goods Administration	120,346
Total	1,720,446

Department/Portfolio Agency	Taxi Costs 2009/2010
Department of Health & Ageing ¹	1,014,993
Aged Care Commissioner	7,285
Aged Care Standards & Accreditation Agency Ltd	118,692
Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care	41,858
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	79,291
Australian National Preventive Health Agency ²	-
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority	50,521
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	106,199
Cancer Australia	37,761
Food Standards Australia and New Zealand	48,770
General Practice Education and Training	17,007
Health Workforce Australia	948
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority ²	-
National Blood Authority	20,674
National Health and Medical Research Council	116,541
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	23,111
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	9,003
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	15,327
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	n/a
Professional Services Review	13,743
Therapeutic Goods Administration	102,160
Total	1,823,884

Department/Portfolio Agency	Taxi Costs 2010/2011
Department of Health & Ageing ¹	1,010,513
Aged Care Commissioner	14,697
Aged Care Standards & Accreditation Agency Ltd	152,500
Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care	56,314
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	94,576
Australian National Preventive Health Agency	7,517
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority	18,758
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	112,000
Cancer Australia	62,091
Food Standards Australia and New Zealand	59,013
General Practice Education and Training	44,622
Health Workforce Australia	126,466
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority ²	-
National Blood Authority	22,068
National Health and Medical Research Council	135,653
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	21,960
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	11,345
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	19,772
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	9,954
Professional Services Review	12,339
Therapeutic Goods Administration	141,243
Total	2,131,188

b) 1 July 2011 to 15 February 2012

Department/Portfolio Agency	Taxi Costs FYTD
Department of Health & Ageing ¹	621,052
Aged Care Commissioner	6,021
Aged Care Standards & Accreditation Agency Ltd	91,200
Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care	43,816
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	47,891
Australian National Preventive Health Agency	9,415
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority	8,635
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	89,344
Cancer Australia	45,635
Food Standards Australia and New Zealand	27,730
General Practice Education and Training	26,028
Health Workforce Australia	113,161
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	3,598
National Blood Authority	21,461
National Health and Medical Research Council	104,170
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	19,974
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	6,051
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	9,011
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	5,583
Professional Services Review	3,743
Therapeutic Goods Administration	84,234
Total	1,388,053

¹ The Department does not record travel data in a way that would readily provide a breakdown of each Business Group in the Department. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.

² The Agency either did not exist or its costs were not separately identifiable in that financial year. Any taxi expense they incurred would be included within the Department of Health and Ageing costs.

Note:

The guiding principles for staff utilising taxi services are outlined in Finance Business Rule Section 7.6 titled 'Taxi Services'. Paragraph 7 states that 'it should be remembered that the use of taxis is spending public moneys and should be justifiable. The guiding principle when using taxis is cost effectiveness and overall efficiency. The Department should receive "value for money" and staff should consider all options of travel.'

The Department has established a network of video conferencing suites in Central Office and state and territory offices. Some of the benefits to staff will be to reduce lost productivity from time spent travelling, and help staff support more efficient travel practices which includes reducing taxi costs.