

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000125

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Taxi costs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis during the specified period?

Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.

2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

3. How much did the department spend on taxis during the specified period for their minister or minister's office?

Answer:

1. The following tables provide a summary of each department/agency's spending on taxis for the period 1 October 2015 to 31 January 2016.

Department of Health	\$'000
Department of Health	262

Health Portfolio (agencies)	\$'000
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	44
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	19
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority	10
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	47
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority	13
Australian Sports Commission	128

Health Portfolio (agencies)	\$'000
Australian Sports Foundation	7
Cancer Australia	25
Food Standards Australia and New Zealand	14
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	14
National Blood Authority	18
National Health and Medical Research Council	21
National Health Funding Body	4
National Mental Health Commission	6
National Health Performance Authority	11
Professional Services Review	5

2. Taxi costs are a component of travel expenditure. The Health portfolio 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.

3. The total spent by the Department for the Ministers office on taxi for the period 1 October 2015 to 31 January 2016 was \$2,034.