

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000135

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Hire Cars

**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 hire cars during the specified period? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for hire car costs?
3. How much did the department spend on hire cars 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 hire car for the period 1 October 2015 to 31 January 2016.

<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Department of Health	44

<b>Health Portfolio (agencies)</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	1
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	-
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority	-
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	11
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority	1
Australian Sports Commission	36

<b>Health Portfolio (agencies)</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Australian Sports Foundation	1
Cancer Australia	-
Food Standards Australia and New Zealand	-
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	-
National Blood Authority	-
National Health and Medical Research Council	1
National Health Funding Body	-
National Mental Health Commission	-
National Health Performance Authority	-
Professional Services Review	1

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

3. The total spent by the Department for the Ministers office on hire cars for the period 1 October 2015 to 31 January 2016 was \$19,593.