

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Corporate Cars

Question reference number: HS 168

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) How many cars are owned by each department/agency?
- b) Where is the car/s located?
- c) What is the car/s used for?
- d) What is the cost of each car from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date?
- e) How far did each car travel from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date?
- f) How many cars are leased by each department/agency?
- g) Where are the cars located?
- h) What are the cars used for?
- i) What is the cost of each car from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date?
- j) How far did each car travel from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date?

Answer:

- a) to e) The Department of Human Services (DHS) does not own any vehicles.
- f) All vehicles required for DHS operational use are accessed through leases via the whole of government Fleet Management Arrangement.
DHS currently leases 1,015 vehicles, of which 822 vehicles are for its own use and 193 vehicles for use by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) under a Shared Services arrangement.
These totals do not include Executive Vehicle Scheme vehicles, which are provided to Senior Executive Service officers as a remuneration option. While the leases are established by DHS, the leasing relationship is between the officer and the vehicle provider. All lease, running and taxation costs are met from the officer's remuneration.
- g) The vehicles are located at office and customer service-related sites throughout Australia.
- h) DHS staff are required to travel within communities and between sites to deliver a wide range of services to citizens through Centrelink, Medicare, Child Support, and CRS Australia programmes, and services that provide support to staff delivering those programs.

PM&C staff are required to travel within communities and between sites to deliver a wide range of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout Australia.

- i) The average lease cost per DHS-utilised vehicle from Additional Estimates on 27 February 2014 to 31 May 2014 (excluding fuel) was approximately \$2,132 per vehicle. The Shared Services arrangement with PM&C has only recently been established. Due to the unavailability of automated vehicle cost data on the vehicles managed on behalf of PM&C, these vehicles have been excluded from the calculation of average cost. The manual investigation required to include PM&C vehicle information would represent an unreasonable diversion of Commonwealth resources.
- j) The average distance travelled per DHS-utilised vehicle from Additional Estimates on 27 February 2014 to 31 May 2014 was approximately 3,944 kilometres. The Shared Services arrangement with PM&C has only recently been established. Due to the unavailability of automated vehicle distance travelled data on the vehicles managed on behalf of PM&C, these vehicles have been excluded from the calculation of average distance travelled. The manual investigation required to include PM&C vehicle information would represent an unreasonable diversion of Commonwealth resources.