

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000732

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Hire Cars

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for hire car costs?

Answer:

- 1) The table below provides a summary of each department/agency's spending on hire cars for the period 1 March 2014 to 31 May 2014.

Department of Health	\$'000
Department of Health (core)	11
Therapeutic Goods Administration Trust	5
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	1
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	2

Health Portfolio (agencies)	\$'000
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	1
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	-
Australian National Preventative Health Agency	-
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority	-
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	7
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority	1
Australian Sports Commission (including Australian Sports Foundation)	13
Cancer Australia	1
Food Standards Australia and New Zealand	-
General Practice Education and Training Ltd	1
Health Workforce Australia	-
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	-
National Blood Authority	1
National Health and Medical Research Council	-
National Health Funding Body	-
National Mental Health Commission	-
National Health Performance Authority	-
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	1
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	-
Professional Services Review Agency	1

2) Hire car costs are a component of travel expenditure. The Department of Health undertakes travel to meet with key stakeholders to ensure health and sport 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 and sport programs and expenditure. Policy 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.