

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 165

Topic: Taxi costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

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:

Department of Social Services

1. For the period 1 June 2014 to 31 August 2014, the Department's expenditure on taxis was \$246,053 (GST exclusive). It is not possible to provide a breakdown by business groups without significant diversion of Departmental resources. Staff are eligible to use a taxi for travel where there is a legitimate business requirement and relevant approvals have been obtained prior to use.
2. Taxis are only used for staff travelling on official Departmental business.
3. For the period 1 June 2014 to 31 August 2014 there was no expenditure by the Department on taxis for the Minister or the Minister's Office.

Australian Aged Care Quality Agency

1. For the period 1 June 2014 to 31 August 2014, the Quality Agency's expenditure on taxis was \$40,681 (GST exclusive). The Quality Agency does not have business groups. As at 1 August 2014 the Quality Agency had 244 staff. Staff are eligible to use a taxi for travel where there is a legitimate business requirement and relevant approvals have been obtained prior to use.
2. Taxis are used by assessors travelling to aged care homes and by managers to attend business meetings. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.
3. Nil

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Australian Institute of Family Studies

1. For the period 30 June 2014 to 31 August 2014 the Australian Institute of Family Studies spent \$5,816 (ex GST) on taxi fares.
2. Taxis are used for staff travelling for business purposes. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.
3. Nil

National Disability Insurance Agency

1. For the period 1 June to 31 August 2014, the National Disability Insurance Agency's expenditure on taxis was \$65,660 (GST exclusive). As at 31 August 2014, the National Disability Insurance Agency had 533 staff. Staff are eligible to use a taxi for travel where there is a legitimate business requirement and relevant approvals have been obtained prior to use.

NDIA Board members, Independent Advisory Council members and independent members of Board sub-committees are also issued with Agency Cabcharge vouchers to be used for travel to and from official meetings and NDIS trial site visits.

In addition, where the Agency has requested the expertise of individuals, including those with disability, as part of the NDIS co-design process, Cabcharge vouchers may be provided so there are no out-of-pocket expenses for those individuals.

A breakdown by business group is as follows:

a) National Operational Management	\$59,794
b) Regional Operations	\$5,866

2. Taxis are used for staff travelling on authorised business for official purposes only.
3. Nil

Social Security Appeals Tribunal

1. For the period 1 June 2014 to 31 August 2014, the Social Security Appeals Tribunal expenditure on taxis was \$12,252.13 (GST exclusive).
2. Taxis are used for members and staff travelling on authorised business. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.
3. Nil