

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 93

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi costs

Senator Ludwig, Joe 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:

1. For the period 1 May to 31 October 2014, total departmental expense on taxis was \$70,908 (GST excl). The Department does not record taxi expense data in a way that would readily allow individual business groups to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
2. The use of taxis is assessed on a needs basis and is subject to the same value for money considerations as all other travel undertaken by departmental staff.
3. The Department had no expenses for taxis for the Minister or the Minister's office for the period 1 May to 31 October 2014.