

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

14 February 2013

Question: AET 966

Topic: Taxi costs (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

966. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date (28 February 2013)? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
- a. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

966. In 2012-13 to 28 February 2013, the ATO (including the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission, the Australian Valuation Office, Australian Business Register and the Tax Practitioners Board) spent \$2,631,180 (excluding GST) on taxis.

The details of this expenditure by ATO business area are provided in the table below:

ATO Business Areas	2012-2013 to Feb 2013 \$
Aggressive Tax Planning	52,933
ATO Finance*	222,543
ATO People	154,409
Australian Charities & Not for Profits Commission	47,919
Australian Valuation Office	22,751
Business Reporting and Registration	52,485
Business Solutions	80,723
Client Account Services	218,104
Compliance Support & Capability	71,782
Corporate Adjustment	1,198
Corporate Relations	56,082
Customer Service & Solutions	78,663
Debt	114,728
Indirect Tax	187,395
Information & Communications Technology	218,318
Large Business & International	127,132
Law and Practice	150,850
Micro Enterprises & Individuals	161,228
Office of the Chief Knowledge Officer	39,418
Office of the Commissioners	32,383
Operations Support & Capability	42,456
Serious Non-Compliance	87,895

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Small & Medium Enterprises	113,559
Superannuation	135,432
Tax Practitioner & Lodgement Strategy	102,817
Tax Practitioners Board	57,978
Total	2,631,181

* ATO Finance taxi costs figure includes costs that are held in a cab charge holding account and have not yet been allocated to other business lines as at 28 February 2013.

- (a) The ATO is a large organisation that is located around Australia with over 80% of its staff located outside of Canberra. There is a great need for the ATO to connect with the community, businesses and tax professionals and staff, requiring a number of employees to travel in the course of their ordinary duties. Taxi costs are typically incurred in the process of undertaking this official travel.