

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012

18 October 2012

Question: SBT 1591-1592

Topic: Taxi Costs (ATO)

Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1591. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
- a. What are the reasons for taxi costs?
1592. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis in 2011-12? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
- a. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

1591. In 2012-13 to 31 October 2012, the ATO (including the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission, the Australian Valuation Office, Australian Business Register and the Tax Practitioners Board) spent \$1.3 million (excluding GST) on taxis and hire cars.

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

ATO business areas	2012-13 to 31 October 2012 (\$'000)
Aggressive Tax Planning	29
ATO Finance	65
ATO People	87
Australian Charities & Not for Profits Commission	24
Australian Valuation Office	11
Business Reporting and Registration	28
Business Solutions	39
Client Account Services	119
Compliance Support and Capability	43
Corporate Relations	31
Customer Service Solutions	38
Debt	64
Indirect Tax	83
Information and Communications Technology	121
Large Business and International	69
Law and Practice	78

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Micro Enterprises and Individuals	69
Office of the Chief Knowledge Officer	24
Office of the Commissioners	14
Operations Support and Capability	24
Serious Non-Compliance	44
Small and Medium Enterprises	66
Superannuation	63
Tax Practitioner and Lodgement Strategy	50
Tax Practitioners Board	29
Total	1,312

- (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.

1592. In 2011-12, the ATO (including the Australian Valuation Office, Tax Practitioners Board and the Australian Business Register) spent \$4.8 million (excluding GST) on taxis and hire cars.

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

ATO business areas	2011-12 (\$'000)
Aggressive Tax Planning	98
ATO Finance	176
ATO People	350
Australian Valuation Office	89
Business Reporting and Registration	43
Business Solutions	125
Client Account Services	384
Compliance Support and Capability	122
Corporate Relations	98
Customer Service Solutions	153
Debt	177
Indirect Tax	481
Information and Communications Technology	364
Large Business and International	347
Law and Practice	305

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Micro Enterprises and Individuals	347
Office of the Chief Knowledge Officer	81
Office of the Commissioners	37
Operations Support and Capability	81
Serious Non-Compliance	160
Small and Medium Enterprises	318
Superannuation	195
Tax Practitioner and Lodgement Strategy	177
Tax Practitioners Board	128
Total	4,836

- (a) Please refer to SBT 1591 (a) for response.