

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBE 719

Topic: Taxi costs (ATO)

Written: 29 November 2013

Senator LUDWIG asked:

719.

- a) How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from 7 September 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
- b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

719.

- a) From 7 September to 30 November 2013, the ATO (including the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, Australian Valuation Office, Australian Business Register and Tax Practitioners Board) spent \$1,069,594 (excluding GST) on taxis. See table 1 below for breakdown by business area.

Table 1: 2013-14 Summary of Taxi Fares by ATO Business Group

Business Area	7 September to 30 November 2013 (\$)
Compliance	476,232
People, Systems and Services	498,545
Law Design and Practice	54,384
Tax Practitioners Board	21,729
Australian Valuation Office	10,277
Australian Charities and Non-for-Profits Commission	8,427
Total	1,069,594

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