

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0141_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & all agencies: Taxi costs

a) How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency. b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer

Department

a) For the period 1 March 2014 to 30 June 2014, the Department of Education¹ spent \$64,917.46 on taxi costs.

A breakdown by each business group is not readily available and would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to generate.

b) Taxis are utilised where they provide the most cost-effective transport option to deliver the outcomes of the department, including where staff are interstate on business.

Agency

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership

- a) \$11,187.72 including GST
- b) Taxis are used by AITSL staff to travel to and from work related meetings where other modes of transport are not practicable

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

- a) \$7792 in Cabcharge costs. This does not include taxi costs paid with credit cards.
- b) Taxis are used where appropriate for travel by staff, Council and other committee members and AIATSIS stakeholders to meetings and events where AIATSIS is responsible for the cost of their travel for AIATSIS business.

¹ For the 2013-14 financial year, costs associated with Corporate and the State Office Network functions cannot be simply attributed to the individual departments. The value associated with these functions has been attributed to both departments.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

- a) ACARA's taxi costs are outlined in the below table.
- b) Taxis are used to enable staff and contractors (mostly curriculum writers and advisors, but also assessment experts) to attend meetings regarding ACARA business.

Staff Taxi Expenses	March	April	May	June	Total
Assessment		1,285	2,324	4,142	7,751
Curriculum	357	465	2,796	4,417	8,035
CEO	88	429	110		626
Office of CEO			295	136	431
Communications and Strategic Relations		88	805	986	1,879
Corporate Services		305			305
ICT		500			500
	445	3,071	6,330	9,681	19,527
Contractors' Taxi Expenses	March	April	May	June	Total
Assessment	17	1295	815		2,127
Curriculum		4637	280	243	5,160
	17	5932	1095	243	7,287
ACARA Total	462	9,003	7,425	9,924	26,814

Australian Research Council

See ED0189_15.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Details for TEQSA's taxi costs for the period 1 March 2014 to 31 May 2014 is as follows.

Amount (GST Exclusive)	Amount (GST Inclusive)	Reason For Taxi Costs
\$11,217.21	\$12,330.13	Business related travel

Agency Breakdown To Business Group	1 March 2014 To 31 May 2014 (GST Exclusive)	1 March 2014 To 31 May 2014 (GST Inclusive)
Commission	3,929.72	4,318.44
Higher Education Standards Panel	926.90	1,019.59
Higher Education Standards Executive	866.62	953.28
Corporate	1,043.61	1,143.43
Legal	49.83	54.81
Regulation And Review	4,163.33	4,579.66
Regulatory Risk And Information	237.20	260.92
Total	\$11,217.21	\$12,330.13