

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0189_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & all agencies: Hire cars

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

Answer

Department

a) For the period 1 March 2014 to 30 June 2014, the Department of Education¹ spent \$8,679.32 on hire cars, excluding Comcar.

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

b) Hire cars are utilised where they provide the most economical and practical method of undertaking departmental business, such as when usage is high enough to be more cost effective than taxis, but not high enough to make leasing or purchase economically viable.

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.

Agency

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

a) Nil response

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership

- a) \$101.05 (inc GST)
For AITSL to report all details requested would be an unnecessary diversion of resources.
- b) Under AITSL's Travel Policy, staff are authorised to use hire cars on a case-by-case basis for travel to and from regional / interstate meetings and for AITSL business purposes only.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

- a) \$3,606 total for AIATSIS.
- b) Travel for AIATSIS staff such as researchers travelling to remote sites.

Australian Research Council

- a) The ARC maintains a single account code for taxis, hire cars, car rental and parking and is not readily able to separate these items. The total spent was \$13,788.
- b) Not applicable

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

- a) Nil (1 March 2014 – 31 May 2014)
- b) Not applicable