

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Indigenous Business Advisory – taxi costs

**Senator:** Senator Zed Seselja

**Question reference number:** 111

**Type of Question:** FPA, Friday 28 February 2014, page 38-39

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator SESELJA: Question on notice number 185—the response from previous estimates: you said, I think, that \$40,712 was spent on taxis between 7 September 2013 and 9 December 2013. That is a pretty high figure in a couple of months; is there a reason why so much was spent on taxis in a couple of months?.....

Senator SESELJA: Is that an indicative number or a high number for a period of a couple of months? How does that compare to the rest of the year, or recent years?

Mr Fry: We may need to take that on notice and look at how it compares with the previous 12 months. It is at a level of detail that I just do not have at my fingertips at the moment.....

Senator SESELJA: How many of those 235 would be regularly using taxis? Is it a small proportion or is it most staff?

Mr Fry: Broadly speaking, about 50 per cent of our total workforce is working out in the regions but we have people from our national office travelling out and vice versa—our regional staff coming in for special events. So I am not trying to avoid the question; I just do not have the level of detail at my fingertips to be able to answer you specifically.

Senator SESELJA: Perhaps you could take that on notice.

Mr Fry: We will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

Taxis are used by Indigenous Business Advisory staff to support the provision of service delivery and support services across 17 sites nationally. Trips are generally to and from airports, offices, stakeholder and client sites. A breakdown of expenditure

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

for each business group was provided in response to Question on Notice 185 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing dated 24 October 2013. Providing the further level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of limited agency resources.