

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 992 - 993

Topic: Tax Costs (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

992. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
993. 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.

Answer:

992. Details of the expenditure over the past four financial years by ATO business area (including the Australian Valuation Office, Tax Practitioners Board and Australian Business Register) for taxi and hire car charges are provided in the table below:

ATO Business Line	2007-08 (\$'000)	2008-09 (\$'000)	2009-10 (\$'000)	2010-11 (\$'000)
Aggressive Tax Planning	69	53	57	92
ATO Finance	71	104	113	158
ATO People	425	241	254	443
Business Reporting and Registration				41
Business Solutions	63	79	90	126
Change Program	373	381	151	
Client Account Services	678	352	358	397
Compliance Support & Capability	141	94	82	123
Corporate Relations	162	120	208	83
Customer Service Solutions	115	89	160	187
Debt	315	222	185	245
Indirect Tax	708	588	556	587
Information & Communications Technology	312	246	365	483
Large Business & International	408	305	309	437
Law and Practice	395	315	246	296
Micro Enterprises & Individuals	386	278	270	365
Office of the Chief Knowledge Officer	73	98	56	83
Office of the Commissioners	21	19	20	38
Operations Support & Capability		63	117	125
Serious Non-Compliance	323	190	152	219
Small & Medium Enterprises	373	229	283	409

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Superannuation	335	118	104	189
Tax Practitioner & Lodgment Strategy	250	218	166	215
Tax Practitioners Board				141
Australian Valuation Office	53	115	211	101
Total	6,049	4,517	4,513	5,583

Note that the ATO runs a nationally managed business which involves connecting with the community and our staff, with over 80% of them located outside Canberra. As part of the ATO budget planning for 2012-13, a reduction of approximately 20% in overall travel costs is being targeted across the ATO. This equates to \$9.0 million for 2012-13.

During 2010-11, a number of fare changes impacted the total value of fares paid, however the impact cannot be quantified. These changes include:

- an increase in flag fall/per km charge in some states (for example Queensland and NSW). Some 50% of ATO staff are employed in these regions
- additional costs for accessing airport parking and drop off facilities, which are now paid as part of the fare, and
- increases and newly introduced toll charges on a number of national roads.

Fare costs in 2011-12 will also be affected.

993. The ATO (including the Australian Valuation Office, Tax Practitioners Board and Australian Business Register) spent \$3.3 million (excluding GST) on taxis (CabCharge and non-CabCharge) and hire cars in 2011-12 to 31 January 2012.

(a) Details of this expenditure by ATO business area are provided in the table below:

ATO Business Line	2011-12 (\$'000)
Aggressive Tax Planning	63
ATO Finance	107
ATO People	248
Business Reporting and Registration	26
Business Solutions	86
Client Account Services	266
Compliance Support & Capability	79
Corporate Relations	66
Customer Service Solutions	91
Debt	123
Indirect Tax	340
Information & Communications Technology	234

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Large Business & International	260
Law and Practice	205
Micro Enterprises & Individuals	257
Office of the Chief Knowledge Officer	56
Office of the Commissioners	20
Operations Support & Capability	58
Serious Non-Compliance	116
Small & Medium Enterprises	202
Superannuation	104
Tax Practitioner & Lodgment Strategy	126
Tax Practitioners Board	78
Australian Valuation Office	97
Total	3,308

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