

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Portfolio

Question No. 92

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:

Taxi costs

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

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

For 2012-13 financial year information up to 31 January 2013, please refer to QoN 121 from the Additional Estimates round.

For the period 1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013 please see below.

Agency	Taxi costs 1 February 2011 – 31 May 2013
Attorney-General's Department	<p>The Department accounts for taxis and car hire and does not disaggregate the balances</p> <p>a) Total \$257,293</p> <p>Departmental \$159,693</p> <p>Executive \$8,810</p> <p>CJLS - Civil Justice & Legal Services Group \$36,023</p> <p>NSCJ - National Security & Criminal Justice Group \$90,249</p> <p>SPCG - Strategic Policy & Coordination Group \$24,611</p> <p>Administered \$97,600</p>
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	<p>a) \$11,557.94 (ex-GST)</p>
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	<p>a) Total \$5,800.61</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive - \$475.44 • Strategic & Secretariat - \$1,523.61 • Operations - \$3,801.56
	b) Taxis are used to enable employees to attend meetings or events, as required by their work
Australian Crime Commission	<p>a) Total \$67,195.82</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Group 1 Intervention & Prevention = \$48,407.88 • Business Group 2 Fusion, Target Development and Performance = \$9,394.85 • Business Group 3 People and Business Services = \$9,393.09

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Australian Customs and Border Security	a) Total \$323,297 (GST exclusive) <table border="0" data-bbox="418 281 1169 716"> <tr><td>Border Protection Command</td><td>\$5,552</td></tr> <tr><td>Cargo & Trade</td><td>\$35,729</td></tr> <tr><td>Compliance & Enforcement</td><td>\$97,179</td></tr> <tr><td>Executive</td><td>\$183</td></tr> <tr><td>Information Technology</td><td>\$4,838</td></tr> <tr><td>Intelligence & Targeting</td><td>\$23,141</td></tr> <tr><td>Maritime Operations Support</td><td>\$94,611</td></tr> <tr><td>Passengers</td><td>\$23,405</td></tr> <tr><td>People & Corporate Services</td><td>\$28,835</td></tr> <tr><td>Reform Taskforce Division</td><td>\$1,545</td></tr> <tr><td>Strategy, Finance & Integrity</td><td>\$8,126</td></tr> <tr><td>Trainees & Graduates</td><td>\$153</td></tr> </table>		Border Protection Command	\$5,552	Cargo & Trade	\$35,729	Compliance & Enforcement	\$97,179	Executive	\$183	Information Technology	\$4,838	Intelligence & Targeting	\$23,141	Maritime Operations Support	\$94,611	Passengers	\$23,405	People & Corporate Services	\$28,835	Reform Taskforce Division	\$1,545	Strategy, Finance & Integrity	\$8,126	Trainees & Graduates	\$153
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Australian Federal Police	a) For the period 1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013, the total expenditure for AFP was \$421,422 (GST exclusive). This expenditure categorised according to business groups is listed, below <table border="1" data-bbox="380 919 1524 1188"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="380 919 967 959">Business Unit</th> <th data-bbox="967 919 1524 959">Amount (GST Exc.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 959 967 999">ACT Policing</td> <td data-bbox="967 959 1524 999">\$8,193</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 999 967 1039">Chief Operating Officer</td> <td data-bbox="967 999 1524 1039">\$53,756</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1039 967 1079">National Security</td> <td data-bbox="967 1039 1524 1079">\$167,032</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1079 967 1119">Operations</td> <td data-bbox="967 1079 1524 1119">\$83,265</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1119 967 1159">Operations Support</td> <td data-bbox="967 1119 1524 1159">\$109,176</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1159 967 1188">Total</td> <td data-bbox="967 1159 1524 1188">\$421,422</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Business Unit	Amount (GST Exc.)	ACT Policing	\$8,193	Chief Operating Officer	\$53,756	National Security	\$167,032	Operations	\$83,265	Operations Support	\$109,176	Total	\$421,422										
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Australian Government Solicitor	b) AFP employees use taxis for work related purposes																									
Australian Human Rights Commission	Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) is a government business enterprise operating on a commercial and competitive basis in providing legal and related services to government and its agencies. AGS does not receive any Budget or other appropriations and its employees are engaged outside of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> . The question is therefore not applicable to AGS <p>a) Total \$31,691</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President, Commissioner's and Support Units \$11,917 • Conciliation & Investigation Services (former Complaints Handling Activities) \$3,464 • International Programs Unit \$3,484 • Other Units \$12,826 Of the amount identified \$8,849 was fully cost recovered under fee for service arrangement including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,387 related to activities on behalf of the ADF for the Defence Force Review • \$3,484 related to activities on behalf of AUSAID for the Human Rights Technical Cooperation Programs 																									

Agency	Taxi costs 1 February 2011 – 31 May 2013
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work
Australian Institute of Criminology	a) The amount spent on taxis is \$6,197. To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources
	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport for transfers to and from airports and to enable employees to attend to meetings or official events as required by their official duties
Australian Law Reform Commission	a) Total \$811.26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend consultation meetings interstate for Copyright Inquiry. Taxi costs to and from airports, and to various meeting locations (241.95) • Corporate attend Senate Estimates, consultation meetings, report launch and training courses (286.85) Executive attend Agency Head meetings, consultations for the Age Barriers Inquiry (282.46)
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	a) The information sought is not readily available as taxi costs are not separately recorded in ASIO's financial recording system. The resources required to manually check each record to identify and collate the information sought are considered unreasonable
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre	a) Total \$42,112 To break down these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	a) \$23,222 (excl. GST). To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees, legal counsel and prosecution witnesses to attend meetings, court or events as required as part of their official duties.
CrimTrac	a) Total \$11,395 To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources
	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport for transfers to and from airports and for travel to/from meetings or other business
Family Court of Australia	a) \$35,891
	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport for transfers to and from airports and for travel to/from meetings or other business

Agency	Taxi costs 1 February 2011 – 31 May 2013
Federal Court of Australia	a) \$56,176 To break down these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.
Federal Circuit Court of Australia	a) \$17,755
	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport for transfers to and from airports and for travel to/from meetings or other business
High Court of Australia	a) \$13,064 – to breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.
Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia	a) \$48,250 Business Services: \$6,817 Corporate Strategy and Support: \$23,504 Corporate Projects: \$4,612 Regulation and Enforcement: \$13,315
	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work
National Native Title Tribunal	The National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) will not be providing a response to this question, as from 1 July 2012 the NNTT is no longer a Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 Agency, and is funded to carry out its functions as a sub-program of the Federal Court of Australia's appropriation. On 12 March 2013 the Courts and Tribunals Legislation Amendment (Administration) Act 2013 came into operation. On that day the Australian Public Service Commissioner signed a determination which transferred all staff employed by the Tribunal to the Federal Court of Australia under s.72 of the Public Service Act, but those staff are designated staff assisting the Tribunal under the Native Title Act
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	a) Total \$907 • Drafting Groups \$557 • Publications Group \$152 • Corporate Services \$198
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	a) Total spend \$2,182 Business group and amount Dispute Resolution = \$408 Executive = \$482 Corporate and Communications: \$380 Regulation and Strategy = \$912
	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport for transfers to and from airports and to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their official duties