

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

[DOHA-NEHTA] Portfolio

Additional Budget Estimates

February 2013

Subject Outcome: E-Health 10.2

Agency: NEHTA

Issue: NEHTA- Expenses

Name of Senator: Sue Boyce

QUESTIONS:

- 1. In the previous Estimates of October 2012 we asked two questions in regard to use of hire cars by NEHTA, especially focusing on the their use by NEHTA staff. NEHTA responded saying they were unable to answer our question because and I quote; “Expenditure on hire cars is not differentiated within NEHTA’s book of accounts”. Hire car companies are often separate from cab companies and charge much higher rates so are you saying it doesn’t matter whether an employee hires a Mercedes hire car to get to work or takes the bus?**

All NEHTA employees are bound by the NEHTA Travel Policy (September 2009). The objective and purpose of this policy is to ensure that travel is only conducted and expense only incurred when it is the most suitable option for business purposes at the minimum cost achievable.

In order to remove any confusion around the appropriate use of transport, we have amended our Travel Policy to clearly state that hire cars are not to be used under any circumstances. A copy of the NEHTA Travel Policy is attached for your reference.

- 2. Has a senior NEHTA manager in Sydney been provided extended hire car transport from home to work and back because of a ‘claimed’ medical problem?**

NEHTA does not nor has it ever allowed employees to claim the cost of transport from home to the office unless it is part of a return to work

program funded by our insurers. The matter you refer to has been referred for external review. Depending on the outcome of that review appropriate action will be taken.