

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes      Question No: SQ16-000015**

**Topic: Taxi Costs**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Joe Ludwig asked:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis during the specified period?  
Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?
3. How much did the department spend on taxis during the specified period for their minister or minister's office?

**Answer:**

1. For the period 1 September 2015 to 31 December 2015, the Department of Social Services' expenditure on taxis was \$213,560 (GST exclusive). It is not possible to provide a breakdown by business groups without significant diversion of departmental resources.

Note: These figures include expenditure by functions that have since transferred out of the Department on 14 September 2015, including Ageing and Aged Care to the Department of Health and Early Childhood and Child Care to the Department of Education.

2. Taxis are only used for staff travelling on official departmental business.
3. For the period 1 September 2015 to 31 December 2015, there was no expenditure by the Department on taxis for the Minister or Minister's office.