

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome

Question No: 890

Topic: Taxi costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

- a) How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
- b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

Department of Social Services

a) For the period 1 March 2014 to 31 May 2014, the Department's expenditure on taxis was \$194,948 (GST exclusive). It is not possible to provide an accurate breakdown by business groups without significant diversion of Departmental resources.

Note: During this period, the Department transitioned the Indigenous Affairs portfolio to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and, therefore, the above expenditure figure includes taxi costs relating to the Indigenous Affairs programme. These figures also include expenditure by agencies and parts of agencies that have progressively transferred into the Department since 27 February 2014, including Ageing and Aged Care, Specialist Employment Services and Settlement Services, from the former Departments of Health and Ageing; Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; and Immigration, Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, respectively.

Departmental expenditure on taxis for the previous three financial years was:

F/Y	Total
2013-14 to 31 May	\$665,642
2012-13	\$901,079
2011-12	\$717,877

Note that data in the above table spans Administrative Arrangements Order changes.

b) Taxis are used for staff travelling on Departmental business. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.

Australian Aged Care Quality Agency

a) For the period 1 March to 31 May 2014, the Quality Agency's expenditure on taxis was \$26,685 (GST exclusive). It is not possible to provide an accurate breakdown by business groups without significant diversion of Agency resources.

b) Taxis are used by assessors travelling to aged care homes and by managers to attend business meetings. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.

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Aged Care Commissioner

- a) For the period 27 February to 24 June the Office of the Aged Care Commissioner spent a total of \$1,603.79 on taxis.
- b) Taxis are used for staff travelling for business purposes. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.

Aged Care Pricing Commissioner

- a) For the period 27 February to 4 June 2014, the Office of the Aged Care Pricing Commissioner's expenditure on taxis was \$ 2,307.72 (GST exclusive).
- b) Taxis are used for staff travelling for business purposes. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.

Australian Institute of Family Studies

- a) The Australian Institute of Family Studies spent \$13,499.07 (ex GST) on taxi fares from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date.
- b) Taxis are used for staff travelling for business purposes. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.

National Disability Insurance Agency

- a) For the period 27 February to 31 May 2014, the National Disability Insurance Agency's expenditure on taxis was \$75,832 (GST exclusive).
- b) Taxis are used for staff travelling on authorised business. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.

Social Security Appeals Tribunal

- a) \$14,185.10
- b) Taxis are used for staff travelling for business purposes. Taxi services are used for official purposes only.