

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-148

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: TAXI COSTS

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

- a) 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.
- b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

- a) The table in Attachment A provides a summary of each Department/Agency spend on taxis for the four months to 31 October 2012.
- b) Taxi costs are a component of travel expenditure. The Department of Health and Ageing undertakes travel to meet with key stakeholders to ensure health programs are adequately supported. Departmental officers investigate complaints and implement regulations in the aged care sector. The Department also funds expert committees which advise on a range of professional, consumer, consumer and community issues with the aim of better targeting health programs and health expenditure. Some taxi costs relate to such committee members. Health and aged care reform initiatives require consultation.

The following table provides a summary of taxi costs by departmental business unit:

Agency	4 months to 31 Oct 2012 \$'000
Department of Health and Ageing	
Core department	305
Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)	39
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS)	9
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR)	5
Total Department	358
Portfolio Agencies	
Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency	60
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	8
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	27
Australian National Preventative Health Agency	11
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Agency	7
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	29
Cancer Australia	31
Food Standards Australia New Zealand	12
General Practice Education and Training Ltd	10
Health Workforce Australia	84
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	17
National Blood Authority	21
National Health Funding Body	6
National Health and Medical Research Council	67
National Hospital Performance Authority	9
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	6
Private Health Insurance ombudsman	4
Professional Services review	2
Total Portfolio Agencies	411