

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

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

**Question:** E12-149

**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 in 2011-12?  
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 in 2011-12.
- 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 agency:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>2011-2012 \$'000</b>
<b>Department of Health and Ageing</b>	
Core department	962
Therapeutic Goods Administration	125
National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	25
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	11
<b>Total Department</b>	<b>1,123</b>
<b>Portfolio Agencies</b>	
Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency	164
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	69
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	80
Australian National Preventative Health Agency	22
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Agency	17
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	126
Cancer Australia	73
Food Standards Australia New Zealand	51
General Practice Education and Training Ltd	27
Health Workforce Australia	168
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	16
National Blood Authority	45
National Health and Medical Research Council	149
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	18
Private Health Insurance ombudsman	8
Professional Services review	8
<b>Total Portfolio Agencies</b>	<b>1,041</b>