

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001431

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Hire Cars

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

1. Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 how much did each department/agency spend on hire cars during the specified period? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for hire car costs?
3. How much did the department spend on hire cars during the specified period for their minister or minister's office?

**Answer:**

1. The table below provides a summary of each Department/Agency's spending on hire cars for the period 1 June 2014 to 30 September 2014.

| Department of Health | \$'000 |
|----------------------|--------|
| Department of Health | 34     |

| Health Portfolio Agencies                                 | \$'000 |
|---|--------|
| Australian Commission on Safety & Quality Health Care     | 1      |
| Australian Institute of Health and Welfare                | Nil    |
| Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency | 7      |
| Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority                   | 3      |
| Australian Sports Commission                              | 20     |
| Cancer Australia  | Nil    |
| Food Standards Australia and New Zealand                  | Nil    |
| General Practice Education and Training                   | Nil    |
| Independent Hospital Pricing Authority                    | Nil    |
| National Blood Authority                                  | 2      |
| National Health and Medical Research Council              | 2      |
| National Health Funding Body                              | Nil    |
| National Mental Health Commission                         | Nil    |
| National Health Performance Authority                     | Nil    |
| Organ and Tissue Authority                                | Nil    |
| Private Health Insurance Administration Council           | 2      |
| Private Health Insurance Ombudsman                        | Nil    |
| Professional Services Review                              | Nil    |

2. Hire car costs are a component of travel expenditure. The Department of Health undertakes travel to meet with key stakeholders to ensure health and sport programs are adequately supported. The Department funds the travel of members of expert committees which advise on a range of professional, consumer and community issues with the aim of better targeting health and sport programs and health expenditure. Health reform initiatives require consultative and public communication activities. Hire cars are used when it is more efficient, cost effective and more convenient than using taxi services.

3. Nil.