

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001459

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Taxi Costs

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

Answer:

1. and a)
The tables below provides a summary of each Department of Health and Portfolio Agency's spending on taxis for the period 1 June 2014 to 30 September 2014.

| Department of Health | \$'000 |
|----------------------|--------|
| Department of Health | 216 |

| Health Portfolio Agencies | \$'000 |
|---|--------|
| Australian Commission on Safety & Quality Health Care | 47 |
| Australian Institute of Health and Welfare | 21 |
| Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency | 24 |
| Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority | 8 |
| Australian Sports Commission | 59 |
| Cancer Australia | 29 |
| Food Standards Australia and New Zealand | 21 |
| General Practice Education and Training | 20 |
| Independent Hospital Pricing Authority | 7 |
| National Blood Authority | 23 |
| National Health and Medical Research Council | 66 |
| National Health Funding Body | 5 |
| National Mental Health Commission | 12 |
| National Health Performance Authority | 16 |
| Organ and Tissue Authority | 7 |
| Private Health Insurance Administration Council | 9 |
| Private Health Insurance Ombudsman | 3 |
| Professional Services Review | 4 |

- b) Taxi costs are a component of travel expenditure. The Department undertakes travel to meet with key stakeholders to ensure health 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 programs and health expenditure. Health reform initiatives require consultative and public communication activities.
- c) Nil.