

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2012

30 May 2012

Question: BET 859-860

Topic: Taxi costs (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written (13/6/12)

Senator BUSHBY asked:

859. 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.
860. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

859. The ATO (including the Australian Valuation Office, Tax Practitioners Board and the Australian Business Register) spent \$4.4 million (excluding GST) on taxis and hire cars from 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012.

The details of this expenditure by ATO business area are provided in the table below:

ATO business areas	1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 (\$'000)
Aggressive Tax Planning	85
ATO Finance	158
ATO People	332
Australian Valuation Office	78
Business Reporting and Registration	40
Business Solutions	117
Client Account Services	356
Compliance Support and Capability	113
Corporate Relations	91
Customer Service Solutions	131
Debt	165
Indirect Tax	433
Information and Communications Technology	334
Large Business and International	322
Law and Practice	284
Micro Enterprises and Individuals	303
Office of the Chief Knowledge Officer	74

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Office of the Commissioners	32
Operations Support and Capability	73
Serious Non-Compliance	152
Small and Medium Enterprises	301
Superannuation	170
Tax Practitioner and Lodgment Strategy	162
Tax Practitioners Board	116
Total	4,422

860. The ATO is a large organisation that is located around Australia with over 80% of its staff located outside of Canberra. Therefore, connecting with staff, the community, businesses and tax professionals drives the ATO's need to travel. Taxi costs are typically incurred in the process of undertaking this official travel.