

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: SBT 2046-2047

Topic: Taxi costs

Reference: written - 31 October 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

2046. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis during the specified period?
- Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
 - What are the reasons for taxi costs?
2047. How much did the department spend on taxis during the specified period for their minister or minister's office?

Answer:

2046. From 1 June to 31 October 2014, the ATO (including the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, Australian Valuation Office, Australian Business Register and Tax Practitioners Board) spent \$1,478,831 (GST exclusive) on taxis.

a. Table 1: Summary of Taxi Fares by ATO Business Group

ATO Business Groups	1 June to 31 October 2014 (\$) (GST exclusive)
Compliance	475,101
People, Systems and Services	884,625
Law Design and Practice	75,945
Tax Practitioners Board	17,101
Australian Valuation Office	4,344
Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission	21,715
Total	1,478,831

- b. The ATO is a large national organisation that is located around Australia with over 80 per cent of staff located outside of Canberra. There is a need for the ATO to connect with the community, businesses, tax professionals and staff, requiring travel for a number of employees in the course of their ordinary duties. Taxi costs are incurred in the process of undertaking this official travel.
2047. The ATO does not pay for taxis for the minister or the minister's office.