

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
 Supplementary Budget Estimates
 2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: ATO
Question: SBT 1939-1940
Topic: Taxis
Reference: written - 30 October 2015
Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

Since 1 January 2015:

1939. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis/Uber during the specified period?
- a) provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
 - b) What are the reasons for uber/taxi costs?
1940. How much did the department spend on uber/taxis during the specified period for their minister or minister's office?

Answer:

1939. From 1 January to 31 October 2015 the ATO (including the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, Australian Business Register and Tax Practitioners Board) spent \$3,355,621 (GST exclusive) on taxis. No ride-sharing services were used.

- a) Please see table 1 below which provides a breakdown for each business group.

Table 1: Summary of Taxi Fares by ATO Business Group

ATO Business Groups	1 January to 31 October 2015 (\$ GST exclusive)
Compliance	1,349,245
People, Systems and Services	1,704,226
Law Design and Practice	222,092
Tax Practitioners Board	46,300
Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission	33,758
Total	3,355,621

- 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.

1940. The ATO does not pay for taxis for the minister or the minister's office.