

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0501\_15**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Dept & its agencies: Hire cars**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014: 1. 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. For the period 1 July to 31 October 2014, the Department of Education spent \$11,063.40 on hire cars, excluding Comcar. A breakdown for each business group is not readily available and would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to generate.
2. Hire cars are used where they provide the most economical and practical method of undertaking departmental business, such as when usage is high enough to be more cost effective than taxis, but not high enough to make leasing or purchase economically viable.
3. For the period 1 July to 31 October 2014, there was no expenditure by the department on hire car costs for the Minister or the Minister's office, excluding Comcar.

**Agency Responses**

**Australian Research Council**

The ARC uses one account code only for taxis, car rental, hire cars and parking and cannot disaggregate this information without a significant diversion of entity resources. The total year to date spend for these items is \$25 112.

**The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency**

TEQSA spent \$190.00 on hire cars.

**Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership**

1. AITSL spend \$661.86 on hire cars. For AITSL to report all details requested would be an unnecessary diversion of resources.
2. Under AITSL's Travel Policy, staff are authorised to use hire cars on a case-by-case basis for travel to and from regional / interstate meetings and for AITSL business purposes only.
3. Not applicable

**Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies**

AIATSIS spend \$3,382.51 on hire cars, to undertake travel for AIATSIS staff such as researchers travelling to remote sites.

**Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority**

Nil