

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 148

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi Costs

Senator Ludwig asked:

- a) How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from 7 September 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
- b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

- a) The ABC does not record expenditure on taxis as a separate line item. Any amounts paid to an employee for the use of the employee's private vehicle are also included in the general ledger account. The amounts reimbursed for the use of an employee's private vehicle are minimal.

Expenditure on taxis and reimbursements for the use of private vehicles for the period 1 September 2013 to 30 November 2013 was \$718,000.

- b) There are number of reasons for expenditure on taxis services, these include ;
 - i. Travel to and from the airport where the employee is travelling on approved ABC business
 - ii. Travel to and from meetings where the employee is representing the ABC;
 - iii. Complying with WH&S requirements
 - iv. Emergency situations or where extenuating circumstances apply and the use of a taxi has been approved by the relevant manager; and
 - v. Circumstances specified in the various employment agreements, particularly in relation to after hours work.

All expenditure on taxi services must comply with the Corporation's Taxi Policy.