

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 36

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hire Cars

Senator Ludwig asked:

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

Answer:

- a) The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources to rectify.
For the period 1 September 2013 to 31 October 2013, total departmental expense on hire cars was \$1,459 (GST excl). The Department does not record hire car expense data in a way that would readily allow individual business groups to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
- b) The use of hire cars is assessed on a needs basis and is subject to the same value for money considerations as all other travel undertaken by departmental staff.