

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

**Question: AET 987**

**Topic: Taxi Costs (ATO)**

**Written: 5 March 2014**

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

987) How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.

a) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

**Answer:**

987) From 1 December to 28 February 2014, the ATO (including the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, Australian Valuation Office, Australian Business Register and Tax Practitioners Board) spent \$1,116,261 (excluding GST) on taxis.

**Table 1: 2013-14 Summary of Taxi Fares by ATO Business Group**

<b>ATO Business Groups</b>	<b>1 December to 28 February 2014 (\$)</b>
Compliance	501,742
People, Systems and Services	497,558
Law Design and Practice	59,467
Tax Practitioners Board	17,358
Australian Valuation Office	5,715
Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission	34,421
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,116,261</b>

a) 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.