

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0376_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept/Ag - Taxi Costs

1. 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. 2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer

DEPARTMENT

In the 2013-14 financial year, it is not possible to fully disaggregate expenditure between the Department of Education and the Department of Employment.

- For expenditure that can be identified as belonging to the Department of Education only, total expenditure on taxis from 1 December 2013 to 28 February 2014 was \$26,237.31.
- For expenditure that cannot be disaggregated, the combined expenditure on taxis by the corporate areas of both departments and the former DEEWR State Network from 1 December 2013 to 28 February 2014 was \$25,452.06.

A breakdown by business group is not readily available and would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to generate.

Taxis are utilised where they provide the most cost-effective transport option to deliver the outcomes of the department, including where staff are interstate on business.

AGENCY

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership

1. \$11,699.18
2. Taxis are used by AITSL staff to travel to and from work related meetings where other modes of transport are not practicable

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

ACARA's taxi costs are outlined in the following table.

Taxis are used to enable staff and contractors (mostly curriculum writers and advisors, but also assessment experts) to attend meetings regarding ACARA business.

Staff taxi expenses	November¹	December	January²	February	Total
Assessment	303	1,964	0	1,452	3,719
Curriculum	637	4,076	0	2,051	6,764
CEO	364	715	0	524	1,603
Board Secretariat	64	0	0	0	64
Communications and Stakeholder Relations	114	0	0	0	114
Corporate Services	0	699	0	82	780
Digital Strategy & Web Development	46	778	0	196	1,019
Reporting	239	1,660	0	635	2,535
Contractors' taxi expenses	1,768	9,891	0	4,940	16,598

	November¹	December	January²	February	Total
Assessment	89	929	0	682	1,699
National Assessment and Surveys Online Project	297	965	0	465	1,726
Curriculum Development	2,015	6,613	74	2,717	11,419
National Trade Cadetships Yrs 9 & 10	116	563	78	1,337	2,094

¹ November figures have been calculated pro-rata.

² Substantial costs for January do not appear in the table as the invoice for January was paid in December prior to the Christmas break.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

1. AIATSIS expenditure on taxis through CabCharge was \$8,356.61. This will cover staff and Council taxi fares, and those of persons travelling on AIATSIS' business at the agency's expense. It does not include expenditure on taxis paid for by corporate credit cards, or where staff have paid in cash and been reimbursed.

2. All taxi costs have been incurred in undertaking AIATSIS' business purposes of research, managing collections and communication to the wider community related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their history and culture and in the good governance of the Institute.

Australian Research Council Authority

1. \$2 105.82. The breakdown by business group would involve a significant diversion of agency resources.
2. What are the reasons for hire car costs? Business related travel

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Cost of hire cars from November 2013 to 28 February 2014	Breakdown of business Group	Reason for car hire
\$130.71 (GST-inclusive)	Commission	Chief Commissioner to attend 2013-14 Additional Estimates hearing