

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2013

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Taxi Costs**

Question: **138**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

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

Answer

- a) DPS has spent \$17,029 (ex-GST) on taxis for this financial year up to 31 December 2012. The table below shows the breakdown of taxi costs for each business group within DPS.

Branch/Section	Cost \$
Building Services Branch	889
Corporate Services Branch	165
Content Management Branch	12,740
Parliamentary Library	594
Infrastructure Services Branch	633
Information, Communication & Technology Branch	1,020
Executive Branch	679
Strategy and Performance Branch	309
Total	17,029

- b) The reasons for the Taxi costs are:
 - i. to and from Canberra Airport, when travelling on official business (eg interstate duty, course, conference, meeting, etc);
 - ii. to and from a destination airport to an official business venue or official business accommodation;
 - iii. to and from official accommodation to a venue (if such accommodation is not reasonably close to the venue);
 - iv. to official activities (local and interstate), when transporting support equipment (eg broadcasting recording equipment, projectors, PCs, etc) and taxi travel is the most cost-effective method;
 - v. between Parliament House and a local venue, where the employee is required to attend an official meeting or other official business; or
 - vi. when the employee is "on call" and may be required to return to Parliament House outside of normal office hours.