

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Taxi costs**

Question: **99**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

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

Answer

1. DPS has spent \$33,881 on taxis this financial year to 31 May 2012. The table below shows the breakdown of each business group within DPS.

Taxi costs

Branch	2011–12 to 31 May (\$)
Executive	587
Research Branch	617
Information Access Branch	177
Building Services Branch	1,639
Infrastructure Services Branch	2,218
Content Management Branch	26,915
Projects Branch	1,346
Corporate Services Branch	382
Total	33,881

2. The reasons for the Taxi costs are outlined in the DPS Chief Executive Procedure (CEP 3.10—Cabcharge).

Paragraph 11 of CEP 3.10 states that DPS employees may use Cabcharge for travel:

- a. to and from Canberra Airport when travelling on official business (eg interstate duty, course, conference, meeting, etc);

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- b. to and from a destination airport to an official business venue or official business accommodation;
- c. to and from official accommodation to a venue (if such accommodation is not reasonably close to the venue);
- d. 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 use of resources;
- e. from Parliament House to a domestic residence where, due to an illness or injury at work, it would be unsafe for the employee to operate their own vehicle or travel by public transport (and it is not considered appropriate for another employee to take the person home in an official DPS vehicle);
- f. between Parliament House and a local venue where the employee is required to attend an official meeting or other official business (if an official DPS or private vehicle is used, parking fees will be reimbursed);
- g. when the employee is "on call" and may be required to return to Parliament House outside of normal office hours; or
- h. in any other case when, in the opinion of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Parliamentary Librarian or relevant Assistant Secretary, permitting an employee to use a Cabcharge for travel is the most cost-effective use of DPS resources.