

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014**

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance and Deregulation

**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1

**Topic:** Use of car transport services in Canberra

**Senator:** Pratt

**Question reference number:** F38

**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA page 74, 30 May 2013

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 12 July 2013

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

I want to determine when members of parliament may use transport services. I note that the examples in the determination are attending religious services and conducting personal banking unrelated to the official work of an MP or a Senate. Likewise, parliamentarians can use to transport to travel to bars, restaurants, to purchase food and beverages and to attend to a myriad of other private affairs and functions. Is that correct?

**Answer:**

Under clause 4.1(b) of *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2012/04* (the Determination), a Senator or Member may use car transport in Canberra on parliamentary business. The term *parliamentary business* is not defined in the Determination. Clause 4.3 of the Determination also provides Senators and Members with car transport in Canberra for personal emergencies (such as dental or medical treatment), funerals, other compassionate circumstances and reasonable personal services (such as religious services and banking when these are not available at Parliament House). The Determination does not define the phrase *reasonable personal services*. When using car transport in Canberra, it is a matter for Senators and Members to decide what constitutes their *parliamentary business*. Similarly it is a matter for Senators and Members to judge what are *reasonable personal services*.

The Special Minister of State has issued *Procedural Rule No 1 of 2012 – Car Transport* (the Procedural Rule) which provides that for travel on parliamentary business, or other travel authorised by clause 4.3 of the Determination, a Senator or Member who is using car-with-driver services may travel directly between his or her place of residence and Parliament House. A Senator or Member may interrupt his or her journey, provided that if the break in journey is expected to be longer than 30 minutes, the car is released immediately and another ordered to complete the journey. The Procedural Rule does not place any restrictions on the purpose of a Senator or Member's break in journey. Such a break could, for example, be at a restaurant, or for other personal reasons.