

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2013**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Taxi Costs**

Question: **142**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 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) The Department has spent \$28,513 (ex-GST) on taxis for the financial year to 31 March 2013. The table below shows the breakdown of taxi costs for each business group within the Department.

Branch/Section	Cost \$
Building Services Branch	3,122
Content Management Branch	19,461
Corporate Services Branch	227
Information Communication and Technology Branch	1583
Infrastructure Services Branch	1,717
Parliamentary Library	754
Senior Executive DPS	1,269
Strategy and Performance Branch	380
Total	\$28,513

- b) The reasons for the Taxi costs are:
 - i. to and from Canberra Airport when travelling on official business (eg. interstate duty, course, conferences, meetings, 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) where 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.