

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Future Fund Management Agency

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Travel Expenses

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F13

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 25, 16 October 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RYAN: It just leapt out at me as that works out at \$1,000 a head. I accept part of your explanation about the travel costs, but I would be interested in knowing whether that is an accurate number because 10 months that means you are looking at well over \$90,000, nearing \$100,000, a year on taxis. That is a lot of trips to the airport.

Mr Burgess: I will take that on notice. Look, anecdotally, we are not extensive users of taxis, but I will come back to you and provide further detail.

Answer:

The Agency has clear policies in relation to the efficiency of all travel expenditure and these costs are only incurred for official purposes. The organisation's overall travel costs reflect its focus on ensuring it properly engages with, monitors and manages its external managers and other partners and provides appropriate risk management oversight.

The taxi costs reported in the response to question F123 put at Budget Estimates in May 2012 also included \$11,112 of other travel costs, such as costs relating to use of trains, car rental and car parking. These other travel costs related both to short trips (such as airport transfers by train) and longer trips (i.e. between cities) where a train journey or car hire was deemed to offer better value and efficiency than a flight.

Accordingly, the taxi only costs in F123 should have been stated as \$67,172 including transport costs both in Australia and overseas.