

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Portfolio

Question No. 121

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

Taxi Costs

- a) 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.
- b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Agency	Taxi costs 1 July 2012-31 January 2013	
Attorney-General's Department	a) The Department accounts for taxis and car hire and does not disaggregate the balances: <u>Total spend for taxis and car hire for 1 July 2012 – 31 January 2013 -</u> *These are revised figures to those provided previously	
	\$357,343	Executive \$9,985
		CJLSG \$80,108
		NSCJG \$215,611
		SPCG \$51,639
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.	
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	a) \$31,366.23 ex-GST To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.	
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.	
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	\$11,220	Strategic and Secretariat: \$4,020
		Operations: \$5,960
		Executive: \$1,240
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.	

Australian Crime Commission	\$159,095.72	Business Group 1 Intervention & Prevention = \$55,501.67																						
		Business Group 2 Fusion, Target Development and Performance = \$68,357.72																						
		Business Group 3 People and Business Services: = \$35,236.34																						
b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.																								
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	<p>a) Total expenditure year to Jan 31 \$626,018.74</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Border Protection Command</td><td>\$7,931.34</td></tr> <tr><td>Cargo & Trade</td><td>\$60,253.62</td></tr> <tr><td>Compliance & Enforcement</td><td>\$194,741.47</td></tr> <tr><td>Executive</td><td>\$1,327.27</td></tr> <tr><td>Information Technology</td><td>\$17,684.19</td></tr> <tr><td>Intelligence & Targeting</td><td>\$67,333.50</td></tr> <tr><td>Maritime Operations Support</td><td>\$157,770.94</td></tr> <tr><td>Passengers</td><td>\$41,036.26</td></tr> <tr><td>People & Corporate Services</td><td>\$51,207.77</td></tr> <tr><td>Strategy, Finance & Integrity</td><td>\$25,472.49</td></tr> <tr><td>Trainees & Graduates</td><td>\$1,259.89</td></tr> </table>	Border Protection Command	\$7,931.34	Cargo & Trade	\$60,253.62	Compliance & Enforcement	\$194,741.47	Executive	\$1,327.27	Information Technology	\$17,684.19	Intelligence & Targeting	\$67,333.50	Maritime Operations Support	\$157,770.94	Passengers	\$41,036.26	People & Corporate Services	\$51,207.77	Strategy, Finance & Integrity	\$25,472.49	Trainees & Graduates	\$1,259.89	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport to enable employees to attend to meetings or events as required by their work. All taxis are for official purposes.
Border Protection Command	\$7,931.34																							
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Australian Federal Police	a) Total spend	b) Business group and amount																						
	\$ 690,478 (exGST)	ACT Police	\$14,593																					
		COO	\$91,507																					
		National Security Operations	\$279,768																					
		Operations Support	\$157,688																					
		Operations Support	\$145,922																					
		Total	\$690,478																					
b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.																								
Australian Government Solicitor	The Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) is a government business enterprise operating on a commercial and competitive basis in providing legal and related services to government and its agencies. AGS does not receive any Budget or other appropriations and its employees are engaged outside of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> . The question is therefore not applicable to AGS.																							

<p>Australian Human Rights Commission</p>	<p>a) \$60,378 (Exc GST)</p> <p>b) Taxis are used to enable Statutory Office Holders and staff attend meetings, seminars or events as required in undertaking work duties.</p>	<p>President, Commissioner's and Support Units \$47,335 Complaints Handling Activities \$4,962 International Programs Unit \$3,503 Other Units = \$4,578 Of the amounts identified \$8,834 was fully cost recovered under fee for service arrangements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,560 related to activities on behalf of the ADF for the Defence Force Review • \$3,503 related to activities on behalf of Ausaid for the Human Rights Technical Cooperation Programs
<p>Australian Institute of Criminology</p>	<p>a) \$6,954 To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.</p> <p>b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.</p>	
<p>Australian Law Reform Commission</p>	<p>Total taxi spend is \$5,135.72.</p> <p>To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.</p>	<p>\$1,011.81 for consultations concerning the Inquiry into Age Barriers to Work \$1,612.20 for consultations concerning the Inquiry into Copyright and the Digital Economy \$2,511.71 for Executive and Corporate travel on inquiry work and to facilitate representation of the ALRC at official functions and government meetings.</p>
<p>Australian Security Intelligence Organisation</p>	<p>The information sought is not readily available as taxi costs are not separately recorded in ASIO's financial recording system.</p> <p>b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.</p>	
<p>AUSTRAC</p>	<p>a) \$63,045</p> <p>b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.</p>	

CrimTrac	\$22,989 To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.	
	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport for transfers to and from airports and to enable employees to attend to meetings or official events as required by their official duties.	
Family Court of Australia	\$53,710 (GST Exclusive) To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.	
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.	
Federal Court of Australia	\$80,144.00 To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.	
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.	
Federal Magistrates Court	\$36,158 (GST Exclusive)	
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.	
High Court of Australia	\$23,646.76 To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.	
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.	
Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia	a) <u>2012-13 YTD</u> Business Services: \$22,529.86 Corporate Strategy and Support: \$50,253.89 Corporate Projects: \$14,587.71 Regulation and Enforcement: \$23,205.74 TOTAL: \$110,577.20	
	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport to enable employees to attend to meetings and clients premises as required in the day to day duties. ITSA does not supply motor vehicles.	
National Native Title Tribunal	The NNTT will not be providing a response to this question, as from 1 July 2012 the National Native Title Tribunal is no longer a <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i> Agency, and is funded to carry out its functions as a sub-program of the Federal Court of Australia's appropriation.	
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	\$13,944 (excluding GST)	Compliance = \$3,914 Executive = \$3,957 Operations = \$1,156 Policy = \$4,917
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required by their work.	

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	a) The Office incurred expenses of \$88,219.60 (incl. GST) for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013. To breakdown these costs by each business group would require an unreasonable diversion of resources
	b) Taxis are used as a means of public transport to enable employees, counsel and witnesses to attend meetings, court or events as required as part of their official duties.
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	a) OPC has spent \$1,358 on taxis this financial year to date—Drafting Groups \$875; and Corporate Services \$483.
	b) Taxis are used as a means of transport for transfers to and from airports for work related travel, and to enable employees to attend meetings or events as required as part of their official duties.