

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-045

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

- a) For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?
- b) For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs from 7 September 2013 to date?
- c) Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.
- d) Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.

Answer:

- a) A smartphone is provided to the Minister and staff in their offices. The current market value of the iPhone is between \$869 and \$1,129 (average \$999) depending upon the amount of memory purchased with the device. The prices stated are GST inclusive.
- b) Ongoing costs for electronic equipment provided to the two Ministers and/or their offices, cannot be separated from the total expended for the Department/Agency. Therefore, to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the Department of Health is not currently in a position to undertake.
- c) Yes, iPads, laptops, wireless cards, blackberry, mobile phones and thumb drives are available to staff, according to business needs.

Details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost per device and a breakdown of what classification of staff that receive these devices follow.

iPads

- iPads are provided.
- The Department has 20 iPads. No iPads have been purchased in the period 7 September 2013 to 30 October 2013.
- The market value of the current model available, the iPad Air, is between \$749 and \$1,049 (average of \$899) depending upon the amount of memory purchased with the device. The prices stated are GST inclusive.
- For devices connecting via the Telstra network there are monthly data plans available to the Department ranging from \$19 per month to \$109 per month GST inclusive. For devices connecting via the Optus network, the data charges are part of the pooled mobile data plan.
- iPads are only available to senior Departmental Executives.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the department is not currently in a position to undertake.

Blackberry

- The current departmental standard Blackberry handset is the Blackberry 9900.
- As at 30 October 2013 the Department had 420 active blackberry devices.
- The current market value of the Blackberry 9900 is \$666 GST inclusive, however no devices have been purchased in the period 7 September 2013 to 30 October 2013. The department re-issues blackberries to staff from its existing fleet.
- For devices connecting via the Telstra network there are monthly data plans available to the Department ranging from \$19 per month to \$109 per month GST inclusive. Actual phone charges are in addition to this on a \$5 per month plan and fee per call arrangement. For devices connecting via the Optus network, the data charges are part of the pooled mobile data plan. For call charges there is either a \$20 per month plan or a fee per call arrangement.
- Departmental policy allows for the provision of Blackberry devices to SES Officers and non-SES Officers are able to request where a business justification and First Assistant Secretary level approval is provided.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the department is not currently in a position to undertake.

Mobile Phones

- The approved departmental handset is the Nokia Asha. The market value of the current handset is \$159.50 GST inclusive.
- As at 30 October 2013 the department had 706 mobile phone accounts.
- For mobile phones accessing the Telstra network a \$5 per month plan and fee per call arrangement applies. For mobile phones accessing the Optus network there is a mix of a \$20 per month plan or a fee per call arrangement.
- Mobile phones are available to departmental staff where a business justification exists.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.

Wireless Cards

- The Optus E3276 is the standard device approved by the Department. The device cost is \$220 GST inclusive. The Telstra Sierra Wireless Card is also available at a cost of \$249 GST inclusive.
- As at 30 October 2013 the Department had 443 wireless card accounts
- 25 devices were purchased in the period 7 September 2013 to 30 October 2013

- For devices connecting via the Telstra network there are monthly data plans available to the Department ranging from \$19 per month to \$109 per month GST inclusive. For devices connecting via the Optus network, the data charges are part of the pooled mobile data plan, which attracts a monthly surcharge of \$7,500 per month.
- Wireless cards are available to staff for use with departmental laptops where connectivity to the departmental network is required from remote locations.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.

Laptops

- The Department has a pool of laptops (Acer and Toshiba models) purchased as part of a wider desktop refresh in the 2011 /12 financial year. No laptops have been purchased in the period 7 September 2013 to 30 October 2013.
- The laptops are purchased under whole of government arrangements. Information on costs is commercial in confidence but can be obtained from the Department of Finance.
- The Department pays a monthly support charge of \$87.68 GST inclusive per deployed laptop.
- Laptops are available to staff for use with departmental broadband devices. They are also supplied to some SES officers in place of a desktop computer.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.

Thumb Drives

- No records are kept on the number of thumb drives within the Department as these are managed by each divisional unit as part of general stationery purchasing.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the department is not currently in a position to undertake.

- d) Yes iPads, laptops, wireless cards, blackberry, mobile phones and thumb drives are available to Ministers and their offices. For details please see responses to parts a), b) and c).