

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Question reference number: HS 118

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June 2014:

- a) What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - i) Please provide a list of channels and the reason for each channel.
 - ii) What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
 - iii) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - iv) What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
- b) What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - i) Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - ii) What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
 - iii) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - iv) What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
- c) What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - i) Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - ii) What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
 - iii) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - iv) What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
- d) What publications does your department/agency purchase?
 - i) Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.
 - ii) What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
 - iii) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - iv) What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period? What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?

Answer:

- a) i) Some areas of the department purchase subscription television services to support departmental operations. There is no central register of service details. The financial management information system is set up to combine all

- subscriptions which include purchase of books (technical and non-technical), videos, periodicals, journals, newspapers and subscriptions. For the department to provide a specific breakdown of pay TV costs for the financial year to date would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- ii) The total cost for all subscriptions from Budget Estimates in June 2014 to 31 October 2014 was \$274,991.
 - iii) The department does not provide pay TV to the Minister's office.
 - iv) Not applicable.
- b) i) Some areas of the department purchase newspaper subscriptions to support departmental operations. There is no central register of newspaper subscription details. The financial management information system is set up to combine all subscriptions which include purchase of books (technical and non-technical), videos, periodicals, journals, newspapers and subscriptions. For the department to provide a specific breakdown of newspaper subscription costs for the financial year to date would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- ii) The total cost for all subscriptions from Budget Estimates in June 2014 to 31 October 2014 was \$274,991.
 - iii) The following newspapers are provided to the Minister's office:
 - *The Australian*;
 - *the Australian Financial Review*;
 - *The Canberra Times*;
 - *the Sydney Morning Herald*; and
 - *the Daily Telegraph*.
 - iv) The total expenditure on newspaper subscriptions from Budget Estimates in June 2014 to 31 October 2014 was \$937 (GST exclusive).
- c) i) Some areas of the department purchase magazine subscriptions to support departmental operations. There is no central register of magazine subscription details. The financial management information system is set up to combine all subscriptions which include purchase of books (technical and non-technical), videos, periodicals, journals, newspapers and subscriptions. For the department to provide a specific breakdown of magazine costs for the financial year to date would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- ii) The total cost for all subscriptions from Budget Estimates in June 2014 to 31 October 2014 was \$274 991.
 - iii) No magazine subscriptions were provided to the Minister's office.
 - iv) Not applicable.
- d) i) Some areas of the department purchase publications to support departmental operations. There is no central register of purchased publications. The financial management information system is set up to combine all subscriptions which include purchase of books (technical and non-technical), videos, periodicals, journals, newspapers and subscriptions. For the department to provide a specific breakdown of publications costs for the financial year to date would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- ii) The total cost for all subscriptions from Budget Estimates in June 2014 to 31 October 2014 was \$274 991.
 - iii) No publications were provided to the Minister's office.
 - iv) Not applicable.