

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 358**

**Program No. Corporate**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Subscriptions**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your Department/Agency have?
  - a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
  - b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
2. What newspaper subscriptions does your Department/Agency have?
  - a. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
  - b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
3. What magazine subscriptions does your Department/Agency have?
  - a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
  - b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?

**Answer:**

1. The Department subscribes to one pay TV service – Foxtel.
  - a. The channels subscribed to are: APAC, Sky News, Sky Business and CNN. The Department subscribes to these channels in order to keep apprised of national and international news, interview, and commentary on issues relevant to the Department's achievement of its core functions.
  - b. The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. Total expenses on these subscriptions from 1 September 2013 – 31 January 2014 was \$2,849.34 (GST excl).
2. The Department subscribes to eight newspapers, both in online and non-online formats.
  - a. These are: The Sydney Morning Herald, The Financial Times, The Canberra Times, The Australian, The Australian Financial Review, The Herald Sun, The Age and The Daily Telegraph. The Department subscribes to these newspapers in order to keep apprised of issues raised in the media that are relevant to the Department's achievement of its core functions.
  - b. Refer 1(b) above. Total expenses for newspaper subscriptions from 1 September - 31 January 2014 were \$11,683.23 (GST excl).
3. The Department subscribes to a range of magazines.
  - a. The finance systems do not allow for this level of detail of all magazines purchased.
  - b. Refer 1(b) above. Total expenses for magazine subscriptions from 1 September 2013 – 31 January 2014 was \$11,168.59 (GST excl).