

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 231**

**Program No.: Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)**

**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.
  - a. Foxtel is the ABC's main pay TV service provider and the most commonly subscribed package is the Business Value package which includes access to the following channels:
    - Sports channels
    - News channels
    - Documentaries
    - Music
    - Kids and Family
    - EntertainmentIn addition there are some ABC subscriptions to Disney and Racing channels through Foxtel.  
  
The ABC subscribes to pay TV for a number of reasons including:
    - Monitoring of other sources of news such as CNN and BBC World News for breaking stories and updates
    - Provision of international sports results
    - Reviewing programming that might be suitable for the ABC to acquire
    - Keeping up to date on emerging bands and worldwide music trends.
  - b. The expenditure from 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014 was \$60,000.
2.
  - a. The ABC subscribes to certain newspapers that directly relate to business needs (the provision of news services).
  - b. The expenditure from 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014 was \$319,000 on newspapers and magazines. It is not feasible to split these costs between magazines and newspapers as there are a high volume of low value transactions and most are paid by procurement card.
3.
  - a. The ABC subscribes to magazines that directly relate to business needs.
  - b. Please see response 2(b).