

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 187(b)**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016**

**Topic: Media subscriptions**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

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

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**Answer:**

1.

- (a) The ABC has pay TV service subscriptions with Foxtel (Business Value package), which includes access to the following channels:

- Sports channels
- News channels
- Documentaries
- Music
- Kids and Family
- Entertainment

In addition, there are some ABC subscriptions to Disney and Racing Channels through Foxtel.

As a media organisation, the ABC subscribes to pay TV to meet operational requirements.

- (b) It is not feasible to determine these costs specifically from 14 September 2015, so information has been provided for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016.

The expenditure over this period amounted to approximately \$58,871.

- (c) Not applicable.

- (d) Not applicable.

2. & 3.

- (a) As a media organisation, the ABC subscribes to certain newspapers and magazines that relate directly to business needs in order to meet operational requirements.

- (b) The ABC does not separately track expenditure incurred specifically on newspapers or magazines nor is it feasible to determine these costs specifically from 14 September 2015, so information has been provided for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 and may include some amounts (albeit small) not incurred specifically on newspapers and magazines.

The expenditure over this period amounted to approximately \$326,374.

- (c) Not applicable.

- (d) Not applicable.

4.

- (a) Publications are purchased for technical, research and professional reasons but it is not feasible to list every purchase and the reason for the purchase.

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- (b) The ABC does not separately track expenditure incurred specifically on publications, nor is it feasible to determine these costs specifically from 14 September 2015, so information has been provided for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 and may include some amounts (albeit small) not incurred specifically on publications.

The expenditure over this period amounted to approximately \$30,159.

- (c) Not applicable.

- (d) Not applicable.