

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 40**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Computers**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

1. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the Ministers office as provided by the department, listing the equipment cost and location and employment classification of the staff member that is allocated the equipment, or if the equipment is currently not being used
2. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the department, listing the equipment cost and location
3. Please detail the operating systems used by the departments computers, the contractual arrangements for operating software and the on-going costs

**Answer:**

1. The Minister and his staff are provided with electronic equipment to assist in carrying out their duties. The equipment provided generally includes a desktop computer, either a mobile phone or smartphone (for phone and email) and a device for remote access to the Department's network. In addition, the suites at Parliament House and Electorate Offices are set up with desk telephones, networked printers and video conferencing facilities. The equipment costs fall in the range of:
  - i. Workstation: \$930 - \$1,300
  - ii. Portable device (either laptop or iPad) \$397 - \$2,050
2. To provide data in the form requested would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
3. The majority of the Department's computers are installed with the Microsoft Windows operating system, purchased under the whole of government Microsoft Volume Sourcing Arrangements. There are a small number of specialist computers installed with the Apple OSX operating system, with an annual subscription of \$763.64 (GST excl) per seat.