

**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: 73**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media subscriptions**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

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

**Answer:**

1. The Department subscribes to one pay TV service – Foxtel.
  1. 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, interviews, and commentary on issues relevant to the Department’s achievement of its core functions.
  2. Total expenses on this subscription from 1 May – 31 October 2014 were \$2,917.52 (GST excl).
  3. The Minister’s office subscribes to one pay TV service – Foxtel.
  4. Total expenses on this subscription from 1 May – 31 October 2014 were \$1,163.62 (GST excl).
2. The Department subscribes to seven newspapers, both in online and non-online formats.

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1. These are: The Sydney Morning Herald, 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 that are relevant to the Department's achievement of its core functions.
  2. Total expenses for newspaper subscriptions from 1 May 2014 – 31 October 2014, excluding the Minister's/Parliamentary Secretary's office, were \$8,193.36 (GST excl.).
  3. The Minister's/Parliamentary Secretary's office subscribes to four newspapers, both in online and non-online formats. The Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian, The Australian Financial Review and The Daily Telegraph.
  4. Total expenses for newspaper subscriptions from 1 May 2014 – 31 October 2014 were \$6,314.48 (GST excl).
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3. The Department subscribes to a range of magazines.
    1. The finance systems do not readily allow for this level of detail of all magazines purchased.
    2. Total expenses for magazine subscriptions from 1 May 2014 – 31 October 2014, excluding the Minister's/Parliamentary Secretary's office, were \$60.45 (GST excl.).
    3. No magazine subscriptions are provided to the Minister's/Parliamentary Secretary's office
    4. Nil.
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4. The Department subscribes to a range of publications.
    1. The finance system does not readily allow for this level of detail of all publications purchased.
    2. Total expenses for publication subscriptions from 1 May 2014 – 31 October 2014, excluding the Minister's/Parliamentary Secretary's office, were \$199,339.30 (GST excl.).
    3. The Minister's office subscribes to a range of online and non-online publications. The finance systems do not allow for this level of detail of all publications purchased.
    4. Total expenses for publications from 1 May 2014 – 31 October 2014 was \$4,543.56 (GST excl).