

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Question No: 58

Topic: Mobile phones

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

- 1) How many mobile phones are there in use by employees?
- 2) With which telecommunications service provider are the mobile phones linked to?
- 3) What is the cost of the plan for each mobile phone?
- 4) How much data is included in this plan?
- 5) What is the cost if data usage goes beyond its quota?
- 6) Have there been instances where data usage for individual mobile phone users has exceeded its quota?
 - a. If so, can you detail the costs incurred as a result for the 2015-16 financial year, and the 2016-17 financial year to date.

Answer:

- 1) As at 7 November 2016 the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) had a total of 1,115 mobile phones in use.
- 2) The ABS has a mixture of both Telstra and Optus mobile phone services. The breakup is Telstra 60% and Optus 40%. Due to reception issues, Census and regional Field Interviewers need to use Telstra.
- 3) The plans used by the ABS are as follows:
 - For Office based Census Staff the GST exclusive plan for mobile phones is \$30.91 for Telstra and \$20.45 for Optus.
 - For Field Interviewers the GST exclusive plan for mobile phones is \$40.91 for Telstra and \$20.45 for Optus.
- 4) The data included in the mobile plans is as follows (1 Gb = 1,000 Mb)
 - For Office based Census Staff the monthly data allowance is 3 Gb data for Telstra and 1.5 Gb aggregated plan for Optus.
 - For Field Interviewers the monthly data allowance is 5 Gb data and 1.5 Gb aggregated plan for Optus.
- 5) The GST exclusive cost for exceeding the monthly data allowance is \$0.09 per Mb for Telstra (capped at \$455 per billing cycle) and \$0.01 per Mb for Optus
- 6) There have been occasional instances where individual mobile phone users have exceeded their data usage quota. For Optus there have been no costs incurred as a result of exceeding the data allowance as Optus have an aggregated plan across all ABS Optus plans. All Optus data allowances go into a shared bucket. For Telstra the GST exclusive costs incurred as a result of going over the data allowance is as follows:

- 2015/16 Financial Year - \$9,216.64.
- 2016/17 Financial Year - \$11,956.91 (this increase is largely due to Census field activity).