

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000348

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - Media subscriptions

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?

Answer

1. Comcare does not pay for pay TV subscriptions.
- 2a. Comcare subscribes to the following newspapers (physical and online subscriptions):
 - The Australian
 - Sydney Morning Herald
 - The Age
 - Canberra Times
 - Herald Sun
 - Courier Mail
 - Canberra Times
 - Australian Financial Review

Comcare subscribes to these newspapers to supply information relevant to Comcare's jurisdiction and operating environment.

b. The cost of the above newspaper subscriptions from 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 is \$2,288.96.

c. Nil.

3. Nil.

4a. Since 14 September 2015, Comcare has purchased the following publications either individually or by subscription:

- Copies of relevant legislation including the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- Comlaw publication
- OHS Alert
- Thomson Reuters OHS News
- Thomson Reuters Workers' Compensation Report
- Occupational Health News
- Return to Work Matters
- Australian Medical Association fee schedules
- Relevant books and individual industry and policy publications

Comcare purchased/subscribed to the above publications to provide easy access to important information to support employees in undertaking their duties. This includes information on:

- legislative change;
- specialist news and analysis for work health and safety and workers' compensation issues
- work related medical conditions including diagnostic criteria and treatment,
- expected length of disability and return to work considerations
- tools to assist in better decision making particularly in relation to the duration of incapacity and return to work
- the latest research and precedent legal information
- tools to assist Comcare staff who provide policy advice.

b. \$3,930.76

c - d. Nil.