

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EM0176_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - Media subscriptions

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have? a) Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel. b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? 2. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have? a) Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each. b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? 3. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have? a) Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each. b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? 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 is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have? a) Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel. b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Comcare does not pay for TV subscriptions.

2. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have? a) Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.

Comcare subscribes to the following newspapers:

- Fairfax newspapers
- The Australian
- Australian Financial Review
- Advertiser Newspaper
- The Courier Mail
- The West Australian
- Sydney Morning Herald
- Canberra Times
- Herald Sun
- The Age
- Lloyd's List Australian.

The reasons Comcare subscribes to the above newspaper subscriptions are:

- to supply information relevant to Comcare's jurisdiction and operating environment;
- to be placed in office foyers/receptions and break out rooms for use by visitors and staff.

b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

The total cost of the above newspaper subscriptions from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date is approximately \$2,286.90.

3. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?

a) Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.

Comcare subscribes to the Crikey magazine.

The reason Comcare subscribes to the above magazine subscription is to supply information relevant to Comcare's jurisdiction and operating environment.

b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

The total cost of the above magazine subscriptions from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date is approximately \$80.

4. What publications does your department/agency purchase?

a) Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.

Comcare subscribes to the following publications:

- The online *Annotated Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act)
- The MDGuidelines
- The Official Disability Guide
- LexisNexis Butts Direct Online
- Australian Privacy Law Handbook Online
- SoftLaw
- Margaret Gee's Media Guide
- The *Work, Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act) and Registration.

The reasons Comcare subscribes to the above publications are:

- Provide Comcare staff with easy access to key Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Court decisions, legislative change history and a 'Practitioners Guide' including notices of SRC Act declarations and Ministerial Directions.
- Provide information on work related medical conditions including diagnostic criteria, treatment, expected length of disability and return to work considerations.
- Tools to assist in better decision making particularly in relation to duration of incapacity and return to work.
- Occasional trials of alternative publications to identify potential alternatives that provide better value
- Provide Comcare's legal employees with access to the most up to date research and precedent legal information to enable them to fulfil their duties as Legal Advisers.

- Provide Comcare with Australia-wide contact information for media personnel to enable quick communication for media related issues.
- Updates on the latest information regarding WHS Act legislature and current cases.
- Tools to assist Comcare staff who provide policy advice.

b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

The total cost of the above publications from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date is approximately \$20,718.50.