

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2011
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Question No: 226

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: Page 12 (26/05/2011)

Topic: Response to Question on Notice 400

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ: Thank you, and welcome to the ABC. First of all if I can go to answers that were provided to questions on notice and question number 400. I asked specifically of the minister if he could take on notice when 19 answers to questions on notice were tabled on 14 February came to his office and when the remaining answers that were tabled on 16 February came to his office. I want to find out if the tardiness, with respect, is with the ABC or with the minister's office. The minister, in typical smart-aleck fashion said the answers to these questions were provided to the committee 'as soon as I was assured of the accuracy of the advice'. I will not pursue the minister again. I will ask you, Mr Scott, and the ABC to please take on notice: when did the ABC supply the draft answers to the minister's office? And, to make it absolutely clear: on what date were they supplied?

Mr Scott: We will do that. We provide our answers to the department, not the minister's office. We will provide the date that we provided it to the department.

Senator ABETZ: All right. I will also ask on notice of the secretary of the department when the department provided those draft answers to the minister's office so we can get an answer and not have to deal with this immature obfuscation.

Answer:

QoN No.	Date first sent to Minister's Office
147	17/12/2010
148	17/12/2010
149	17/12/2010
150	17/12/2010
151	17/12/2010
152	17/12/2010
153	17/12/2010
154	17/12/2010
155	17/12/2010
156	17/12/2010
157	17/12/2010
158	17/12/2010
159	17/12/2010
160	17/12/2010
161	17/12/2010
162	20/12/2010
163	17/12/2010
164	20/12/2010

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QoN No.	Date first sent to Minister's Office
165	20/12/2010
166	20/12/2010
167	20/12/2010
168	20/12/2010
169	11/01/2011
170	11/01/2011
171	11/01/2011
172	11/01/2011
173	20/12/2010
174	11/01/2011
175	11/01/2011
176	11/01/2011
177	11/01/2011
178	11/01/2011
179	11/01/2011
180	11/01/2011
181	11/01/2011

The Department always seeks to process responses to questions on notice as quickly as possible. In processing responses, including those from portfolio agencies, the department reviews each response and checks it for consistency with the question asked and factual accuracy. The processing of some responses from the ABC was delayed because the department shut down for the Christmas/New Year break between 25 December and 4 January 2011, and a significant number of departmental staff took leave in the week following the shut down. The Minister was also on leave from 8 to 24 January 2011 (inclusive). The above dates indicate when a response to a question on notice was first sent to the Minister's Office. After that there can often be an iterative process to clarify issues or aspects of a response before a response is cleared for lodgement with the Committee.

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Question No: 227

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: Page 89 (26/05/2011)

Topic: Consultancies for NBN related Public Relations

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: The department contracted Weber Shandwick to help with NBN related PR; is that correct?

Senator Conroy: Yes.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: How much have you paid them?

Mr Rizvi: I would have to take on notice specifically how much we have paid them to date, Senator.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Do you have a rough idea of the contract value?

Mr Rizvi: The original contract value was around \$700,000.

Senator FISHER: That was a whistle from Senator Birmingham, Hansard.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Are any other consultants engaged by the department to help with NBN PR?

Mr Rizvi: We have contracts to develop various elements of the communications strategy, including the development of products that we would be able to use to help people better understand the kinds of opportunities the NBN opens up. There are other contracts related to that.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Could you provide details of all of those on notice. You had a tinge of uncertainty there, Mr Rizvi; has the \$700,000 initial value of the contract gone up or down?

Mr Rizvi: The work that was related to the \$700,000 has not changed. There have been other aspects of communications that have emerged as a result of the work we have been doing in this space, and that has had separate costs related not necessarily to Weber Shandwick but to other contractors.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Including Weber Shandwick?

Mr Rizvi: I would have to take on notice whether any of that relates to Weber Shandwick itself.

Answer:

Weber Shandwick was engaged by the Department in late 2010 to develop and implement a communication strategy to assist with informing Australian households and businesses on how they can take advantage of the opportunities created by the National Broadband Network (NBN) and better participate in and grow Australia's digital economy.

Research undertaken by the department in 2010 showed that 49% of respondents indicated that they needed more information about the NBN initiative and the benefits it would deliver, particularly given the network was already being rolled out in parts of Australia.

Recently, Jim McKerlie, Chairman, Bullseye said: *the NBN will introduce major changes for business, government services and other things and people need to understand the long term opportunities that will arise, though they will take time. There is a need for a simple education program, across the board.*

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Additionally, in many of the submissions lodged to the House of Representatives Inquiry there is a very strong sentiment regarding the need for more awareness of the NBN:

- Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt said: *At present there is a real lack of understanding about what the NBN entails and how it will impact on different areas of the country. It is crucial that communication about the proposed roll-out, particularly to regional areas be improved considerably.*
- National ICT Australia said: *Developing a fast network alone will not translate to these benefits without full community and business understanding of the value proposition that the NBN provides.*
- AgForce Queensland said: *The positive effects and advantages of genuine broadband access on economic growth and employment opportunities in regional areas must be promoted to the community. This will require marketing and possibly education services and technical support to people who are not adequately computer literate.*
- Regional Development Australia Central Coast NSW said: *The majority of SMEs do not understand the many benefits associated with lower cost, ubiquitous super fast broadband.... There is a pressing need to demystify the NBN and break it down in to tangible day to day benefits. In doing so, the prosperity promised by the NBN will become a reality.*

The arrangement with Weber Shandwick, to deliver this communication program has involved other sub-contractors including:

- Reborn – website development
- The Gadget Group – video production
- SoDUS Films – video production

Together these parties delivered:

- A communication strategy
- Broadband champions program
- National Digital Economy Strategy launch
- Local advocate program
- Interactive website
- Local and national media program
- Business videos (7)
- Video case studies and interviews (12)

Total expenses related to Weber Shandwick as at 31 May 2011 was \$474,750.64 (GST exclusive).

In addition, the Department separately contracted Clemenger BBDO to develop a seven minute video showing a household of the future taking advantage of the NBN.

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Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN/Broadband

Senator Birmingham asked:

Where was each of DBCDE's NBN community forums held? What was the cost to hold each forum? How many people attended each forum? How was each forum promoted? How were attendees selected?

Answer:

In 2010 the Department held community forums in Perth, Toowoomba, Smithton, Ballarat, Broken Hill, Darwin, Emerald, Gladstone, Victor Harbor, and Nurioopta.

The cost of each forum varied according to the location however, in most instances the total cost of a forum was between \$2,000 and \$4,000 (GST exclusive).

The forums were promoted by open invitation through local newspapers, councils, chambers of commerce and in some instances local Government. Generally 30 to 50 people attended.

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Question No: 229

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN Budget

Senator Fisher asked:

On page 14 of the DBCDE Budget Portfolio Statements, we note that part of the \$23.4m amount will be used for “providing information to consumers and small businesses about the NBN” What is intended to be done to achieve this objective and what is the associated cost? Is the “NBN Champions” concept costing included in this amount?

Answer:

The NBN Implementation Budget measure providing \$23.4 million to the Department over four years from 2011-12 covers three initiatives to:

- provide information to consumers and small businesses about the NBN rollout and support for the migration from the copper to the fibre network
- provide technical and policy advice to Government on the implementation of the NBN policy objectives
- establish the new entity responsible for the delivery of the Universal Service Obligation (USO) and legislative scheme for changes to the USO arrangement.

The broadband champions concept, established as part of the communication of the Digital Economy Strategy, is not included in this measure.

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Question No: 230

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many permanent staff have been recruited this FYTD?
- b. What classification are these staff?
- c. How many temporary positions exist or have been created this FYTD?
- d. This FYTD, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

- a. A total of 85 ongoing (permanent) staff were recruited this financial year to date (1 July 2010 to 26 May 2011).
- b. The classifications of these staff are as follows:

Classification	Number of staff
Graduates	6
APS 1	6
APS 2	0
APS 3	5
APS 4	4
APS 5	8
APS 6	26
EL 1	22
EL 2	6
SES B1	1
SES B2	0
SES B3	1
Total	85

- c. A total of 15 non-ongoing (temporary) positions exist as at 26 May 2011.
- d. As at 26 May 2011 a total of 106 employees have been employed on non-ongoing (temporary) contracts this financial year. The average length of their non-ongoing employment period is 6.15 months.

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Question No: 231

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing – Efficiency Dividend/Budget Cuts

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
- b. If so, where and at what classification?
- c. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- d. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer:

- a. The impact of the efficiency dividend, together with all other budget measures, are taken into consideration in developing the annual budget for the department. In aggregate, since its formation, the Department's staffing levels have grown.
- b. Not Applicable.
- c. The Department currently has no specific plans for staff reductions but continues to implement process improvements that will enable it to use its resources more efficiently in line with its Budget and Forward Estimates.
- d. The Department's graduate and school leaver programs were reduced in 2011 to better reflect the Department's ongoing needs. Those levels will be maintained for 2012.

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Question No: 232

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Advertising

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What communications programs has the department undertaken, or are planning to undertake FYTD?
- b. For each program, what is the total spend?

Answer:

The Department has undertaken the following communication programs in 2010-11:

- 1) The Digital Switchover communication program is undertaken in a phased approach – introducing the concept of switchover, the timetable and what people need to do to switch to digital. Communication activity is conducted on a national level, as well as local advertising in regional South Australia and Broken Hill, regional Victoria and regional Queensland during 2010-11.

Switchover communication program expenditure includes creative development, advertising costs, an evaluation and developmental research program, public relations activities, Digital Switchover Liaison Officer program, a call centre and mailing house.

Total Administered cost on Digital Switchover communication from 1 July to 31 May 2011 was \$17,989,143 (excl GST).

- 2) The National Broadband Network (NBN) communication program in 2010-11 included the continuation of the NBN advertising campaign, which concluded on 19 July 2010.

In addition, the Department developed and implemented an NBN / digital economy communication strategy which focused on public relations activity. This included the launch of the National Digital Economy Strategy on 31 May, as well as the redevelopment of nbn.gov.au, video production and a select national and local media program.

Total Administered and Departmental costs incurred on NBN communication from 1 July to 31 May 2011 was \$5,868,487 (excl GST).

- 3) National Cyber Security Awareness Week 2011 was conducted by the department. Agreed target outcomes for the week included increased awareness and understanding of cyber security and uptake of actions to prevent cyber security risks.

The National Cyber Security Awareness Week 2011 took place from the 30 May to 3 June. Total cost incurred on this communication program from 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011 was \$308,998 (excl GST).

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Question No: 233

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?
- b. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

Refer to the response to Question on Notice. 244 for the total hospitality spend from 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011 by the Department.

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Question No: 234

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.
- b. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answer:

- a. The Minister's total hospitality spend as at 31 May 2011 is \$686.65 (including GST). The cost includes a credit card transaction merchant fee of \$10.15 (ie. 1.5 per cent).
- b. The cost was incurred for an event on 26 November 2010 held at the Minister's suite in Parliament House, Canberra for the successful passage of the *Competition and Consumer Safeguards Bill 2010*.

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Question No: 235

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What is the Department's entertainment spend FYTD?
- b. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

a. & b. The Department's financial management system does not allow for a distinction between spending on 'hospitality' and spending on 'entertainment'. Refer to the response to Question on Notice. 244 for the total hospitality and entertainment spend from 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011 by the Department.

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Question No: 236

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend FYTD.
- b. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answer:

a. & b. The Department's financial management system does not allow for a distinction between spending on 'hospitality' and spending on 'entertainment'. Refer to the response to Question on Notice. 234 for the total hospitality and entertainment spend FYTD by the Minister.

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Question No: 237

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Board Appointments

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
- b. Please detail any board appointments for the FYTD.

Answer:

- a. The following table reflects the gender ratio (as at 30 June 2011) of portfolio boards/bodies:

Board	Gender Ratio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation	4 Female: 4 Male
Australian Communications and Media Authority	1 Female: 7 Male
Australia Post	2 Female:5 Male
Convergence Review Committee	1 Female: 2 Male
NBN Co	2 Female: 6 Male
Regional Telecommunication Independent Review Committee	2 Female: 3 Male
Special Broadcasting Service	4 Female: 5 Male

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- b. The following table reflects all appointments to portfolio boards made during the financial year 2010/11. *Please note the SBS board appoints the Managing Director.

Board	Position	Gender	Reappointment definition in accordance with Government Board Reporting System Yes/No
Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Non-Executive Director	Male	Yes
	Non-Executive Director	Female	No
	Non-Executive Director	Female	No
Australian Communications and Media Authority	Chair position	Male	Yes
	Deputy Chair	Male	No
	Member	Female	No
	Member	Male	No
	Member	Male	No
Australia Post	Non-Executive Director	Female	No
	Non-Executive Director	Female	No
	Non-Executive Director	Female	No
	Non-Executive Director	Male	Yes
Convergence Review Committee	Chair	Male	No
	Member	Female	No
	Member	Male	No
Special Broadcasting Service	Non-Executive Director	Female	No
	Non-Executive Director	Female	No
	Non-Executive Director	Female	Yes
	Managing Director*	Male	No
	Deputy Chairperson	Male	Yes

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Question No: 238

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Has the department within the portfolio received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b. How many FOI requests has the Department received?
- c. How many have been granted or denied?
- d. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

- a. No.
- b. The Department received fifty three FOI requests between 1 November 2010 and 31 May 2011.
- c. Of the fifty three requests received, the Department granted access in full on three requests; granted access in part on ten requests; twenty one requests were either withdrawn or taken to be withdrawn; and access was refused on five requests. Two requests were transferred to other agencies. As at 31 May 2011, the Department was continuing to process the remaining twelve requests.
- d. The Department has not issued any conclusive certificates in relation to FOI requests.

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Question No: 239

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Community Cabinets

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the cost of the Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?
- b. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel?
- c. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel?
- d. What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office?

Answer:

- a. The Minister's travel cost was \$791.19 for the Community Cabinet in Petrie, Queensland on 2 December 2010. There were no other travel expenses.

The Minister's travel cost was \$2131.74 for the Community Cabinet in Fremantle, WA on 30 March 2011. There were no other travel expenses.

The Minister did not attend the Community Cabinet in Makin, SA on 19 May 2011.

- b. Two staff travelled to the Community Cabinet in Petrie, Queensland on 2 December 2010 and the total cost of their travel was \$2640.57. There were no other travel expenses.

One staff member travelled to the Community Cabinet in Fremantle, WA on 30 March 2011 and the total cost of their travel was \$1891.67. Other travel expenses totalled \$506.00.

No staff attended the Community Cabinet in Makin, SA on 19 May 2011.

- c. A Deputy Secretary from the Department travelled to the Community Cabinet in Petrie, Queensland on 2 December 2010 and the total cost of their travel was \$1124.48. Other travel expenses totalled \$504.87.

A Deputy Secretary from the Department travelled to the Fremantle, WA on 30 March 2011 and the total cost of their travel was \$1666.20. Other travel expenses totalled \$608.75.

The Secretary of the Department attended the Community Cabinet in Makin, SA on 19 May 2011 and the total cost of their travel was \$715.97. Other travel expenses totalled \$613.10.

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d. See costs outlined above.

As at Budget Estimates. Costings for Minister/staff provided by Department of Finance and Deregulation and the provision of these answers would be accelerated by asking the Department of Finance and Deregulation directly. All costs GST exclusive.

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Question No: 240

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Reviews

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many Reviews are currently being undertaken by all departments and agencies in the portfolio?
- b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- c. What reviews have been concluded FYTD?
- d. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- e. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- f. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
- g. What further reviews are planned for 2011 - 12 FY?

Answer:

- a. 5
- b. See attached table - section (1)
- c. See attached table - section (2)
- d. See attached table – section (2)
- e. See attached table – section (2)
- f. See attached table – section (2)
- g. See attached table – section (3)

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OoN 240 Reviews: (1) Current (2) Reviews that were concluded during current financial year to date (July 2010 - 26 May 2011) and (3) Planned

Name of Review	Specified timelines/duration	
(1) Current Reviews/When will each conclude?		
Statutory Review is defined as an exercise conducted and/or paid for by the Department/Agency that has been undertaken, or is being undertaken, in response to a statutory requirement (i.e. specified by legislation).		
Review of regional digital radio technologies	Under section 215A of the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> the Minister caused to be conducted a review of technologies suitable for digital radio in regional areas before 1 January 2011. The review is currently being undertaken and a report of the review must be tabled in each House of Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after completion of the report.	
Review of Schedule 7 to the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> (BSA)	Subclause 118(1) of Schedule 7 to the BSA provides that within three years after commencement of the Schedule, the Minister must cause to be conducted a review of the operation of the Schedule and consider whether it should be amended or repealed. The review commenced on 12 December 2010 as part of the department's Convergence Review.	
Name of Review	Specified timelines/duration	
(1) Current Reviews/When will each conclude?		
Non-Statutory Reviews are defined as reviews not specified by legislation and are conducted as a result of a decision by Government (i.e. the Minister).		
Review of Access to Telecommunication Services by People with Disability, Older Australians and People Experiencing Illness	The Review is scheduled for completion by December 2011.	
Review of the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman Scheme	The government will consider the outcomes of the review alongside the Australian Communications and Media Authority's final <i>Reconnecting the Customer</i> report, which is scheduled for release in late August 2011.	
Convergence Review	The Government has launched a Convergence Review of Communications Regulation. The Review will consider what changes need to be made to existing policy frameworks for media and communications services in light of ongoing convergence trends including broadband, digitisation of platforms, smart devices and the Internet. The Review's Terms of Reference were released on 2 March 2011 and are available on the DBCDE website. The Review is expected to conclude in the first quarter of 2012.	
Name of Review	Date provided to Govt/when will Govt. be responding	Cost (GST exclusive)

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(2) Completed Reviews – current financial year to date (July 2010 – 26 May 2011)

Statutory Review is defined as an exercise conducted and/or paid for by the Department/Agency that has been undertaken, or is being undertaken, in response to a statutory requirement (i.e. specified by legislation).

<p>Review of the Do Not Call Register</p>	<p>The <i>Do Not Call Register Act 2006</i> requires the Minister to cause to conduct a review of the legislation and relevant provisions of the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i> before or as soon as practicable after 31 May 2010.</p> <p>A report of the review must be tabled in each House of Parliament within 15 sittings days of that House after the completion of the report.</p> <p>The report was tabled on 29 September 2010.</p>	<p>The review has been conducted as part of the normal business of the department. There were no staff solely allocated to the review.</p> <p>Associated costs of advertising the discussion paper were \$19,943.31.</p>
<p>Review of Submarine Cable legislation (Schedule 3A Telecommunications Act 1997)</p>	<p>Part 5, Clause 89 of the Telecommunications Act 1997 requires that Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to report to the Minister on the operation of Schedule 3A to the Telecommunications Act 1997 within 5 years of the day it commenced. This requires a report to be provided no later than September 2010.</p> <p>The report was tabled on 18 November 2010. The final report includes six recommendations, some of which are wide ranging. The government is considering the recommendations, noting legislative changes, involving a range of stakeholder interests, are proposed. The government's objective is to finalise its response in the coming months after full consideration of the issues.</p>	<p>The review has been conducted as part of the normal business of the ACMA. There were no staff solely allocated to the review. No additional resources were allocated to the review.</p>
<p>Review of regional radio localism requirements</p>	<p>Section 61CT of the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> requires the Minister to cause to be conducted a review of regional radio localism requirements before 4 April 2010.</p> <p>A report of the review must be tabled in each House of</p>	<p>The review has been conducted as part of the normal business of the department. There were no staff solely allocated to the review.</p> <p>Associated cost of advertising the discussion paper in newspapers was \$30,222.25</p>

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	<p>Parliament within 15 sittings days of that House after the completion of the report.</p> <p>The report was tabled in Parliament on 1 March 2011.</p> <p>In submissions to the review, the commercial radio industry sought a number of changes to the localism requirements. The findings of the review will inform the government's consideration of the requested legislative changes.</p>	
Name of Review	Date provided to Govt/when will Govt. be responding	Cost (GST exclusive)
(2) Completed Reviews – current financial year to date (July 2010 – 26 May 2011)		
Non-Statutory Reviews are defined as reviews not specified by legislation and are conducted as a result of a decision by Government (i.e. the Minister).		
Review of access to electronic media by the hearing and vision impaired	<p>Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy tabled the Media Access Review Final Report in Parliament on 3 December 2010 to coincide with the International Day of People with Disability.</p> <p>The final report includes 22 recommendations to improve access to electronic media for people with hearing and vision impairment.</p> <p>The Australian Government is moving to implement the Report's recommendations.</p>	<p>The review has been conducted as part of the normal business of the department. There were no staff solely allocated to the review. The cost of publishing the April 2008 discussion paper in accessible formats included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Braille \$355 (GST not applicable) *Audio \$297 <p>The cost of publishing the November 2009 Discussion Report in accessible formats included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Braille \$1390 (GST not applicable) *Audio \$573 *Changes to audio files \$136
Name of Review	Brief outline of Review	
(3) Planned Reviews (may commence in 2011 – 12 FY)		
Statutory Reviews is defined as an exercise conducted and/or paid for by the Department/Agency that has been undertaken, or is being undertaken, in response to a statutory requirement (i.e. specified by legislation).		
Review about the allocation of new commercial television broadcasting licences	Section 35A of the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> requires the Minister to cause to be conducted a review before 1 January 2012 of whether one or more commercial television licences that use the broadcasting services bands should be allocated using a price-based system for a particular area or areas of Australia; and if so, what variations (if any) should be made to any licence area plans in force. A report of the review must be tabled in each House of Parliament within 15 sittings days of that House after the completion of the report.	

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2011-12 Regional Telecommunications Review	Part 9B of the <i>Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999</i> provides for an independent review of regional telecommunications to be conducted by the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee. The committee must provide its report by 5 March 2012.
Name of Review	Brief outline of Review
(3) Planned Reviews (may commence in 2011 – 12 FY)	
Non-Statutory Reviews are defined as reviews not specified by legislation and are conducted as a result of a decision by Government (i.e. the Minister).	
Review of Telstra Retail Price Controls	The department will conduct a comprehensive review of Telstra's retail price controls in the first half of the 2011-12 Financial Year.

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Question No: 241

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Monitoring

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office FYTD?
- b. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- c. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department in FYTD?
- d. Which agency or agencies provided these services?

Answer:

The total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings and electronic media transcripts provided to the Minister's office and the Department is \$276,262.20 (GST inclusive) as at 20 June 2011. The Department and Minister's Office share media monitoring.

The agencies which provided these services were Media Monitors and Australian Associated Press (AAP).

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Question No: 242

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Social Media

Senator Fisher asked:

Has there been any changes to department social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since October 2010? If yes, please explain.

Answer:

There have been no changes to the Department's social media protocols or staff access to social media websites since October 2010.

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Question No: 243

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio FYTD?
Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- b. How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- c. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

From 1 July 2010 to 26 May 2011 no reports have been commissioned by the Government in the Broadband Communications and Digital Economy portfolio.

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Question No: 244

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality Spend

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. Please detail any catering costs, listing the cost of food and beverages, and include a separate list of alcohol costs.
- b. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. Please detail any catering costs, listing the cost of food and beverages, and include a separate list of alcohol costs.

Answer:

- a. Details of the Department's hospitality expenditure from 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011 are in the table below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Total cost (GST excl)
17/8/10	Canberra	Guided tour of Parliament House for representatives of the Indonesian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.	\$72.72
6-8/10/10	Guadalajara Mexico	Functions held in Guadalajara, Mexico for delegates of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. - The functions included the provision of food and beverages (the amounts were not separately invoiced) - \$3,321.93 - Hire of furniture for the functions - \$819.68	\$4,141.61
31/1/11	Canberra	Lunch held for visiting officials from Brunei Darussalam. - Food \$ 217.91 - Beverages \$ 35.82 - Alcohol \$ 0.00	\$253.73
16/2/11	Canberra	Function for the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee. - Food \$ 353.64 - Beverages \$ 46.36 - Alcohol \$ 141.82	\$541.82
24/2/11	Canberra	Working Group dinner with Intel representatives. - Food \$ 1,909.10 - Beverages \$ 43.64 - Alcohol \$ 748.18	\$2,700.92
30/3/11	Canberra	Lunch with Director of Information, Communications and Computer Policy Directorate,	\$71.09

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Date	Location	Purpose	Total cost (GST excl)
		OECD. (Receipt does not contain a breakup of the purchase)	
13/4/11	Canberra	Dinner with Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union. - Food \$ 574.55 - Beverages \$ 87.27 - Alcohol \$ 43.64	\$705.46

- b. The Minister's total hospitality spend for the FYTD, as at 31 May 2011, is \$686.65 including GST. This cost includes a credit card transaction merchant fee of \$10.15 (ie. 1.5%). The event was held on 26 November 2010 at the Minister's suite at Parliament House, Canberra.

The purpose of the event was a ministerial function for the successful passage of the *Competition and Consumer Safeguards Bill 2010*.

Catering cost details (GST inclusive) are:

Food	\$486.00
Beverages	\$22.50
Alcohol	\$168.00

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Question No: 245

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How much time is spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings?
- b. How often must papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings be redrafted or resubmitted? Please provide example of why this would happen. (i.e. last minute policy changes or redate papers due to items not being discussed when initially scheduled).

Answer:

a. & b. The Department undertakes a range of functions to support the Minister in performing his portfolio responsibilities. The Department's annual report includes information on the volume of correspondence, ministerial submissions, briefs and questions on notice processed by the Department. The Department does not keep records on the specific information requested.

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Question No: 246

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Stationery Requirements

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What are the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. special type of paper, envelopes)?
- b. What are the cost of these items?
- c. Is the Department/portfolio agencies paying for these.

Answer:

a. & b. The special stationery requirements of the Minister and the cost per unit of each item is:

Stationery item	Cost per unit (GST inclusive)
Envelopes DL	\$0.075
Envelopes C4	\$0.29
Envelopes C5	\$0.27
'With Compliments' slips	\$0.23
A4 Blank Paper 90GSM	\$0.23
Business Cards	\$0.66
Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy letterhead	\$0.036
Office of Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy letterhead	\$0.039

- c. Yes.

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Question No: 247

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Does your department within the portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
- b. Does your department within the portfolio subscribe to newspapers? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
- c. Does your department within the portfolio subscribe to magazines? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.

Answer:

- a. Yes. Subscription to Foxtel enhances overall media monitoring in the Department. Channels include: Sky News, APAC and Sky Business. Total expenditure for 2010-11 was \$4,681.24 (excl GST).
- b. Yes. Monthly newspaper subscription enhances overall media monitoring, and ensures staff are informed of major policy changes or decisions. Total cost of newspaper subscriptions for the Department for 49 weeks (excluding three weeks where delivery is cancelled over the Christmas / New Year period) is \$18,196.80 (excl GST). The Department subscribes to the following newspapers:
 - The Age
 - The Australian
 - The Canberra Times
 - The Daily telegraph
 - Australian Financial Review
 - Sydney Morning Herald.
- c. Yes. The Department subscribes to magazines and relevant journals to ensure staff are informed and have access to information and relevant research to develop policy. The estimate total annual cost for magazines currently purchased by the library is \$21,968.18 (excl GST).

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Question No: 248

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

- a) For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include what sum was spent on travel, accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
- b) For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- c) For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.

Answer:

- a) & b) Costs of official travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and accompanying ministerial staff are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). Information about destinations and the costs of travel undertaken is tabled in Parliament every six months in a report titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*. The report also includes car transport costs as advised by other Departments in respect of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Finance website.

It is not possible to individually report on all the separate items requested in the question as costs are met by individual travellers from domestic travelling allowances paid as a daily rate.

The Department does not maintain financial records of official gifts as the supply and payment of official gifts is the responsibility of the Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch (CERHOS) of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

- c) Departmental officers at times travel interstate to attend a meeting with the Minister or to provide support at an event the Minister has travelled to. However, the Department's financial travel records do not differentiate from such trips and would not be able to identify with any accuracy when departmental officers have accompanied the Minister on a domestic visit. In respect of attendance at Community Cabinet meetings, see response to Question on Notice 239.

As at 26 May 2011, for the financial year to date, one departmental officer has accompanied the Minister on an overseas visit to Japan and Singapore as part of the Minister's official travelling party.

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Details of the official's travel to Japan (Okinawa only) and Singapore with the Minister are outlined below. No costs were attributable to gifts or security.

Delegate	Destination	Duration	Airfare	Accommodation	Travel Allowance/ Other
First Assistant Secretary	Singapore & Japan	28 October – 2 November 2010 (with Minister Conroy) Officer arrived in Okinawa on 25 October to attend an earlier meeting.	\$9,159.24	\$2,209.73	\$675.50 (inc GST)
				These costs include an additional 3 days as the Officer attended a senior officials meeting prior to the arrival of the Minister.	

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Question No: 249

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Education Expenses

Senator Fisher asked:

Please detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department. Include what type of course, the cost and how many participants.

Answer:

The department has 55 employees participating in tertiary studies through the Study Assistance Program. As at 31 May 2011 the department has paid \$107,045.09 GST Exclusive in study assistance this financial year.

The department has conducted 59 in-house training programs this financial year as at 31 May 2011.

The table below outlines the type of program, participant numbers and the cost.

In -house Programs	Number of Participants	Number of Programs	Total cost of program deliveries (GST Exclusive)
Financial Management Courses	121	8	\$76,000.00
On-boarding Program Courses	91	6	\$6,513.64
Policy Program Courses	43	4	\$17,806.34
Broadcasting Courses	21	1	\$15,993.45
Freedom of Information Courses	15	1	\$7,354.55
Personal Development Courses	227	19	\$91,592.53
Legal (delivered by department staff) Courses	60	3	\$0
Technology (delivered by department staff) Courses	189	9	\$0
Writing Module Courses	108	8	\$20,564.82
Total	875	59	\$235,825.33

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Question No: 250

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Senator Fisher asked:

In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each portfolio department within the portfolio, please provide the following information FYTD:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification
4. The names of all service providers engaged

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- a. The name and nature of the service purchased
- b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d. The total number of hours involved for all employees
- e. The total amount spent on the service
- f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:

- i. The location used
 - ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
 - iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part
- Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

The Department has delivered two leadership programs this financial year as at 31 May, the Strategic Management Program (SMP) and Manager Development Program (MDP).

Strategic Management Program

1. Total spending for the SMP was \$66,670.61 GST Exclusive.
2. At 31 May 2011 the department had 185 employees at the EL1 classification which is the target group for this program.
3. There were 18 participants in the SMP all at the EL1 classification.
4. The program was facilitated by Upton Martin Consulting.

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Upton Martin Consulting

- a. Upton Martin Consulting facilitated the SMP.
- b. The program was delivered to a group.
- c. There were 18 participants in the program, all at the EL1 classification.
- d. The program required seven and a half days of group session and approximately five hours of individual project work for each participant.
- e. The facilitation of the program cost \$51,836.37 GST Exclusive.
- f. The fees were charged at a daily rate.

Venue Hire

- i. The Canberra Business Events Centre, Regatta Point ACT.
- ii. 18 participants attended the five days held at the venue.
- iii. Each participant attended the venue for 37.5 hours, in total 675 hours for all participants.
- iv. The venue hire for the five days was \$10,434.59 GST Exclusive.

Venue Hire

- i. The Canberra Stadium Function Centre, Bruce ACT.
- ii. 18 participants attended the two days held at the venue.
- iii. Each participant attended the venue for 15.0 hours, in total 270 for all participants.
- iv. The venue hire for the two days was \$4,339.65 GST Exclusive.

Manager Development Program

1. Total spending for the MDP was \$ 35,912.07 GST Exclusive.
2. At 31 May 2011 the department had 92 employees at the APS5 classification and 144 at the APS6 which is the target group for this program.
3. There were 18 participants in the MDP, seven at the APS5 classification and 11 at the APS6 classification.
4. The program was facilitated by Tempo Strategies.

Tempo Strategies

- a. Tempo Strategies facilitated the MDP.
- b. The program was delivered to a group.
- c. There were 18 participants in the program, seven at the APS 5 classification and 11 at the APS6.
- d. The program required five and a half days of group session and approximately 5 hours of individual project work for each participant.
- e. The facilitation of the program cost \$30,426.44 GST Exclusive.
- f. The fees were charged at a daily rate.

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Venue Hire

- i. The Brassey of Canberra, Barton ACT.
- ii. 18 participants attended the five days held at the venue.
- iii. Each participant attended the venue for 37.5 hours, in total 675 for all participants.
- iv. The venue hire for the five days was \$5,485.63 GST Exclusive.

In relation to the purchase of executive coaching services purchased by DBCDE, the following has been provided this financial year as at 31 May.	
5. Total spending on these services	\$22,353.82 GST Exclusive
6. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification	155 employees at the Senior Executive and Executive Level 2.
7. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification	4 - Executive Level 2 staff 4 - Senior Executive Band 1 staff 1 – Senior Executive Band 3 staff
8. The names of all service providers engaged	SHL Australia Pty Ltd, Yellow Edge Pty Ltd and VT Coach Pty Ltd

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:	SHL Australia Pty Ltd
g. The name and nature of the service purchased	Executive coaching
h. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based	one-on-one
i. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification	One EL2
j. The total number of hours involved for all employees	4.5 hours
k. The total amount spent on the service	\$2,285.64 GST Exclusive
l. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)	Per hour
Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:	
iv. The location used	SHL Office
v. The number of employees who took part on each occasion	1
vi. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part	4.5 hours
vii. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location	Nil

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For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:	Yellow Edge Pty Ltd
a. The name and nature of the service purchased	Executive coaching
b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based	one-on-one
c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification	One SES Band 3, three SES Band 1 staff and three EL2 staff
d. The total number of hours involved for all employees	55
e. The total amount spent on the service	\$19,450.00 GST Exclusive
f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)	Three month package (two EL2 staff and one SES Band 1) and per hour (one EL2 staff, two SES Band 1 and one SES Band 3)
Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:	
i. The location used	Yellow Edge Office
ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion	one
iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part	54
iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location	Nil

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:	VT Coach Pty Ltd
g. The name and nature of the service purchased	Executive coaching
h. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based	one-on-one
i. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification	One SES Band 1
j. The total number of hours involved for all employees	1.5 hours
k. The total amount spent on the service	\$618.18
l. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)	Per hour
Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:	

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v.	The location used	NA
vi.	The number of employees who took part on each occasion	NA
vii.	The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part	NA
viii.	Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location	NA

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Question No: 251

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Please list how many staff in each portfolio department within the portfolio are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
- b. Please list which portfolio department are providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.

Answer:

- a. Eligibility for the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme is determined by the Family Assistance Office and is subject to a number of criteria including a work and income test.
- b. The Department registered to participate in the scheme and was prepared to receive and make payments from 1 January 2011. To date no claims have been received and therefore no payments have been made.

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Question No: 252

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Workpoint Space

Senator Fisher asked:

1. For each portfolio department office please list the occupied workpoint space allocated per person.
2. Does this adhere to the Government's Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines (the Guidelines)?
 - I. If yes, please explain if any refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines and what the costs were.
 - a. What savings did each portfolio department achieve by meeting the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department separately.
 - b. How much of these savings has each portfolio kept? Please itemise each portfolio department separately.
 - II. If no, please give details why it does not, including whether an exemption has been received by the Finance Minister.
 - a. What funding has been taken from each portfolio department because they do not meet the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department separately.
 - b. Are there plans to meet the Guidelines? Please explain.

Answer:

1. The Australian Government Office Occupancy Report provides the agreed occupational density figures for each agency at September 2009. At the time of the report, the Occupational Density of the Department was 22.8 m²/occupied workpoint.

Refurbishment works associated with a department restructure were completed in December 2009. The outcome of the project was a reduction in the number of buildings the Department occupies in Canberra, from three to two, and to consolidate staff accommodation. As a result the overall allocated space per workpoint in March 2011 was 15.15 sqm. Actual occupied workpoints will naturally fluctuate with movements in staff numbers. Due to some workpoints being vacant, the occupied density of the department's footprint was 17.88 m²/workpoint as at March 2011. Planned recruitment in the next few months will result in a further increase in the occupied density of the department's accommodation.

- 2.I.a The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy adheres to the Government Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines by applying the 5 principles of Property Management, as well as fulfilling the mandatory requirements of the Guidelines of having a Property Management Plan and reporting data to Finance.

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- 2.I.b See answer to 1 above. The Department's property savings are included in the whole-of-government measure published in the 2009-10 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook as a cross-portfolio measure (*Commonwealth Property Management Framework – identification of savings*, page 165).