

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 144**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: Page 3 (24/05/2012)**

**Topic: QoN 223 (from Additional Estimates hearing)**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

**Senator FISHER:** Thanks very much for telling me that your stationery requirements cost 10c an envelope and 77c per business card for 2011-12. But my question was: how much was the spend by the department on government stationery requirements this financial year to date? I think it is quite clear. Is it all that hard to give a total cost figure?

**Senator Conroy:** We will take that on notice and see if we can provide you with some further information.

**Answer:**

From 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012, the Department expended \$300 (GST exclusive) on government stationery requirements.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 145**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: Page 10 (24/05/2012)**

**Topic: Contractors**

**Senator McDonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** Perhaps I will rephrase the question. Can you give me on notice a list of former officers of the department who are currently not fully employed by the department but are under some sort of contractual relationship with the department to provide services?

**Mr Harris:** I think that that will make it a lot easier to answer.

**Answer:**

On 24 May 2012, there were three former officers of the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy who were directly engaged to provide services on a less than full-time basis for the Department. All were short-term appointments.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 146, 147 & 148**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Access & Equity**

**146 Senator Di Natale asked:**

How does your Department ensure that the Government's Access and Equity Strategy is implemented in its entirety and in relation to all Departmental activities? How does your Department acknowledge the multicultural character of the Australian society, in terms of the services and programs you provide?

**147 Senator Di Natale asked:**

How do you measure your success against Access and Equity goals.

What evidence do you have that the Department is actively implementing the Government's Access and Equity policy?

**148 Senator Di Natale asked:**

What changes will you implement over the next financial year to ensure your programs and services are more accessible to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities?

**Answer:**

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy is committed to ensuring that its programs and services are accessible to all Australians and promotes awareness of the Government's Access and Equity Strategy and its Performance Framework within the Department.

In developing new policies and programs, the Department is mindful of the need to ensure the impact on the community is considered. Consultation mechanisms, such as discussion papers, are used to consider the views of people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. For example:

- During the National Broadband Network (NBN) implementation phase, it was identified that information sessions should be held for CALD communities, in a range of regional centres. These commenced in the 2011/12 and will continue into the 2012/13.
- The Department is also working with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) on the delivery of a three-year trial of virtual English language tuition using the NBN, which will help new migrants settle into regional communities.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**

**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**

**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

- The Digital Switchover Taskforce produces material in languages other than English, targeting the most prominent language groups in each switchover area. Material on digital switchover has also been made available in multiple languages on the Digital Ready website. In developing this material, the Department consulted with a Consumer Expert Group (CEG) which comprised of organisations such as National Disability Services, Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia, Deafness Forum of Australia and Cultural Perspectives.
- The Department also administers funding support to community broadcasters (including ethnic broadcasters) in order to promote diversity in broadcasting services in a cost effective manner for the maintenance and development of the Australian community broadcasting sector.

In the next financial year, the Department will continue to ensure that the needs of all Australians, including those from CALD communities, are considered in all stages of program development through public consultation and engagement.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 149**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Access and Equity**

**Senator Di Natale asked:**

What is your department doing to ensure it has a culturally competent workforce?

**Answer:**

Figures from the 2010—11 annual report show that 8.2% of staff identifies with a diversity category.

A number of measures are in place to ensure the ongoing cultural competence of the Department's workforce. The Department has produced a range of material, such as the diversity statement and reasonable adjustment policy. Information is available to staff on the Department's intranet site about the benefits of a diverse workplace and how to contact our diversity contact officers. The Department's recruitment processes have been audited and approved by the Australian Network on Disability. The Department also has a Reconciliation Action Plan, an Indigenous Employment Strategy and in-house Indigenous cultural awareness training is available to all staff.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 150**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
- b. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
- c. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

**Answer:**

- a. A total of 92 ongoing staff were recruited this financial year. The classifications of these staff are as follows:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number of staff</b>
Graduates	9
APS 1	7
APS 4	3
APS 5	14
APS 6	19
EL 1	33
EL 2	6
SES B1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>

- b. A total of 8 non-ongoing positions have been created this financial year to 30 April. The classifications of these staff are as follows:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number of staff</b>
APS 4	2
APS 6	1
EL 1	3
EL 2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

- c. A total of 96 employees have been employed on non-ongoing contracts this financial year to 30 April 2012. The average length of their non-ongoing employment period is 8.57 months.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 151**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Please list the SES positions you have in your department/agency this financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions.

**Answer:**

As at 30 April 2012, there were 38 ongoing and one non-ongoing SES staff in the department, broken down by level as follows:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number of employees</b>
SES B1	27
SES B2	9
SES B3	3
Total	39

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 152**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator: Fisher asked:**

Will there be any training after the 2012 Calendar year for 2012 Graduates? If yes, please detail costs and what the training is.

**Answer:**

No, there will not be any further Graduate specific training for the 2012 Graduates after the 2012 calendar year.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 153**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

What was the cost for recruiting 2012 Graduates? Please itemise and detail costs.

**Answer:**

The overall direct cost for recruiting the Department's 2012 Graduate intake was \$138,161.21. This included:

- \$111,720.45 (GST exclusive), for print advertising, printed promotional material, participation in career fairs and the recruitment process including shortlisting, online testing and assessment centres; and
- \$26,440.76 (GST exclusive), for travel associated with the promotional campaign and candidate and assessor travel to the assessment centres.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 154**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Freedom of Information**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
- c. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?
- d. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

- a. The Department follows the Guidelines and advice issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) when processing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. The Department also notes guidance issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to all departments on 28 July 2011.
- b. As management of the FOI function is part of the Department's day-to-day business, costs are not identified separately. All agencies are required to supply the OAIC with particular information about resources allocated to FOI as part of their annual statistical reporting requirements. From the information supplied, the OAIC calculates and reports full year costs for each agency. Information for the 2011-12 financial year will be reported by the OAIC in the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 Annual Report 2011-12*. External legal costs associated with FOI processing are reported on AusTender.
- c. For the financial year to end April 2012, the Department has received thirty seven (37) FOI requests. Of the thirty seven requests received, six are ongoing, access was granted in full on five requests; access in part on nine requests, access refused to nine requests and eight requests were withdrawn by applicants. The Department did not meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act on one occasion as the request included multiple parts that significantly complicated the identification of documents. The processing of this request has been completed.
- d. Nil; conclusive certificates were abolished on 7 October 2009.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 155**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Monitoring**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date?
  - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
  - b. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2012-13?
2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department/agency for this financial year to date?
  - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
  - b. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2012-13.

**Answer:**

1. The Department has one media monitoring contract for these services, which includes the Minister's office and these costs cannot be split. The total cost of media monitoring services to the Department for this financial year is provided below.
  - a. Not applicable.
  - b. Not applicable .
2. Total media monitoring services expenses for the financial year to 30 April 2012 were \$210,051 (GST excl).
  - a. Media Monitoring services are provided to the Department by Sentia Media.
  - b. The estimated budget to provide media monitoring services to the Department for the financial year 2012-13 is \$360,000.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 156**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Social Media**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Has there been any changes to Department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. If no, please explain why not.

**Answer:**

The Department's social media and Web 2.0 protocols have been updated to include key points from the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1.

Attached is an extract from the Department's updated social media and Web 2.0 guidelines, which include the key points outlined in the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1.

The Department advised staff of the updates through its Intranet site.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 157**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Government Stationery Requirements**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) this financial year to date?

What is the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?

What was the department/agency's stationery costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?

**Answer:**

From 1 July 2011 to 30 April 2012, the Department expended \$300 (GST exclusive) on government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements.

The Department's stationery costs are recorded in an account that includes consumables, such as toner cartridges, kitchen supplies and the like. To attempt to provide data would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

The Department's expenses for stationery and other consumables for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 April 2012 is \$222,767.

The Department's expenses for stationery and other consumables for 2009-10 were \$611,980 and for 2010-11 \$509,062.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 158**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Subscriptions**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
  - a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
  - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
2. Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
  - a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
  - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
3. Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
  - a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
  - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

1. Yes.
  - a. The Department subscribed to CNN as it was no longer available through the Parliamentary Television Channel. The additional expense for CNN is \$246.36 (GST excl) per month.
  - b. The total expenditure for pay TV subscriptions for the financial year to 30 April 2012 was \$5,793.89 (GST excl).
2. Yes.
  - a. Due to a review of the Department's library, since April, the number of newspapers the library provides has been reduced to three titles – The Australian, The Canberra Times and the Australian Financial Review. As well, there has been a move towards digital subscriptions.
  - b. The total expenditure for newspaper subscriptions for the financial year to 30 April 2012 was \$19,191.62 (GST excl).

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**

**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio**

**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

3. Yes.

a. Due to a review of the Department library, a total of 19 journal subscriptions have or will be suspended.

b. The total expenditure for magazine subscriptions for the financial year to 30 April 2012 was \$21,599.46 (GST excl)

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 159, 160**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Education Expenses**

**159 Senator Fisher asked:**

What are the department/agency's guidelines on study? Please provide details.

For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.

**Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training**

**160 Senator Fisher asked:**

In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

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, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each 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 (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- 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 (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- III. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- IV. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Answer:**

The Department conducted a range of in-house training programs over the period 1 July 2011—30 April 2012 covering: leadership; legal awareness; and technical and personal skills development. A total of 842 staff attended these internal programs; some staff attended more than one session. Staff also attended conferences, seminars and professional skills training provided by external organisations.

The Department has 65 employees participating in tertiary studies through the Department's studies assistance program. The Department's study leave policy provides for up to 5 hours study leave per week, up to a maximum of 75 hours per semester. In addition staff are entitled to up to 3 hours per week for travel time if required. The actual time taken by each officer varies and is agreed at the commencement of each semester with their delegate.

The total expenses for the period 1 July 2011—30 April 2012 relating to staff training (both internal and external) and associated costs, seminars, conferences, study assistance and the associated Fringe Benefits Tax was \$804,308.05 (GST exclusive).

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Senate Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 161**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Training**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

In relation to media training services purchased by each Department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

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, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each 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 (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- 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 (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- iv. Any costs the Department or agency's incurred to use the location

**Answer:**

The Department has not purchased media training services during the year-to-date in 2011-12.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 162**

**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 and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
- b. For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification 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. This financial year, fifteen claims have been received and the respective payments have been made. Classifications for these employees are as follows:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number of employees</b>
APS 5	2
APS 6	2
EL 1	10
EL 2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 163**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Training for Portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.
2. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.
3. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification.

**Answer:**

1. Nil
2. Nil
3. Nil

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 164**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Corporate Cars**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. How many cars are owned by each department and agency in your portfolio?
- b. Where is the car/s located?
- c. What is the car/s used for?
- d. What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?
- e. How far did each car travel this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

- a. Nil
- b. N/A
- c. N/A
- d. N/A
- e. N/A

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 165**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Printing of Documents**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Does the department/agency print any hard copies of reports/statements/papers they produce? If yes, please list how many copies, where they are delivered and the cost.

**Answer:**

Yes, the Department prints hard copies of reports/statements/papers produced. The details sought about printing of documents are not captured on any central database. As such, the Department is not in a position to provide the information requested.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 166**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Provision of Equipment**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs.
2. For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date? What were the running costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
3. Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive (not an inclusive list)) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.
4. Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):
  - a. Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.

**Answer:**

1. The Minister and his staff are provided either a mobile phone or personal digital assistant (PDA for phone and email). The type of device provided is determined by the functionality required. The cost for these is the same as listed below for the department's staff.
2. Communication expenses reported from the department's financial management system includes expenses on items such as: PDAs, portable devices, wireless cards, broadband, fax machines, land lines, mobile phones, etc. To attempt to provide disaggregated data would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Communication expenses for the Minister's Office from 1 July 2011 to 30 April 2012 were \$38 393.56 (excluding GST); for 2010-2011 were \$73 144.40 (excluding GST); and for 2009-2010 were \$82 844.80 (excluding GST).

3. Yes. SES officers, and other approved staff, are generally provided with either a mobile phone or PDA, and a device for remote access to the department's network. The purchase price for equipment for departmental staff falls into the range of:

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**

**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**

**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

- i) Mobile handset (either phone or PDA): \$500 - \$1,000
- ii) Portable device (either laptop or iPad): \$800 - \$2,000
- iii) Wireless card: \$220

Communication expenses reported from the department's financial management system includes expenses on items such as: PDAs, portable devices, wireless cards, broadband, fax machines, land lines, mobile phones, etc. To attempt to provide disaggregated data would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

- 4. There have been no changes to the response provided since the Additional Estimates 2011-12 hearing.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Budget Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 167**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Electricity Purchasing**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. Provide an update of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement. Provide details of when this was entered into and the length of the agreement.
- b. What were the department/agency electricity costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- c. What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

- a. The Department is a participant in the Whole of Government procurement of electricity for Commonwealth Agencies' facilities in the ACT.

The contract for the Supply of Electricity to Whole of Government (ACT) with ERM Power Retail is a four year contract from 1 July 2011 through 30 June 2015.

- b. Expenses were:

2009-10	\$259,608.90 GST exclusive
2010-11	\$276,156.17 GST exclusive
- c. In 2011-12 expenses to 30 April 2012 were \$198,636.47 GST exclusive.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 168**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Information for the Australian Greens and Independents**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. Does the Department provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Australian Greens? If yes, please provide the following information:
  - a. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
  - b. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each work produced.
  - c. Has any such work and/or information been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were and why if could not be undertaken.
  - d. How long is spent undertaking work and/or information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
  
2. Does the Department provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Independents? If yes, please provide the following information:
  - a. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
  - b. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details, including who the work/information was for and a copy of each work produced.
  - c. Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were, who they were from, who they were for and why it could not be undertaken.
  - d. How long is spent undertaken work and/or information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

**Answer:**

For the financial year to end April 2012:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1 & 2   | Yes  |
| 1a & 2a | Various - commissioned by the Minister, through the Department's normal parliamentary processes and direct requests for briefings.   |
| 1b & 2b | The Department fulfils the Government's commitment to provide the Australian Greens and Independents with prior notice of the introduction of legislation and to make officials available to provide |

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**

**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**

**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

briefings on Bills proposed for introduction on request. Information on Bills is publically available through the Parliament House website.

The Department drafted responses to Parliamentary and Senate Estimates Committee questions on notice asked by the Australian Greens and Independents. The responses to these questions have been submitted to the Parliament for tabling or distribution to relevant committees.

A number of responses to ministerial correspondence from the Australian Greens and Independents were drafted in the Department for signature. The information in these responses covered wide ranging issues.

1c & 2c

No.

1d & 2d

In relation to the above, the department does not record a breakdown of staff hours or employment classifications as it is conducted as part of normal business of the department.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Budget Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 169**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Shredders**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders in the last 12 months? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

**Answer:**

No.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 170**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Board Appointments**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.
- b. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
- c. Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date.

**Answer:**

- a. A list of all boards is outlined at (b) below. For other details, refer to previous tabled responses to Senate Order 13 and Additional Budget Estimates 2012 Question on Notice 213.
- b. The following table reflects the gender ratio (as at end April 2012) of portfolio boards/bodies, excluding the non-Government appointments (Managing Director positions of ABC, Australia Post and SBS).

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

- c. For appointments made during the financial year 2011-12 please refer to the department's response to Senate Order 13 which has been tabled in Parliament and is available on the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy website [http://www.dbcde.gov.au/about\\_us/information\\_publication\\_scheme\\_ips/senate\\_order\\_on\\_board\\_appointments](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/about_us/information_publication_scheme_ips/senate_order_on_board_appointments) .

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 171**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Community Cabinet Meetings**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?
- b. How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended? List date and location.
- c. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Ministerial Staff attend? List date and location.
- d. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.
- e. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

a - e. Refer to the response to February 2012 Additional Estimates Question on Notice 215 for details to 31 January 2012.

To 30 April 2012, one Community Cabinet meeting was held on 4 April 2012 and there was no attendance by the Minister, Ministerial staff or departmental officers as the Minister was overseas.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 172**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Reviews**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

For this financial year to date:

- a. How many Reviews are being undertaken?
- b. What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded
- c. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- d. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- e. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
- f. What reviews are planned?
- g. When will each of these reviews be concluded?

**Answer:**

For this financial year to 31 May 2012, the following table provides details on Government Reviews undertaken by the DBCDE portfolio: Current and Planned Reviews section responds to parts (a) - (b) - (f) - (g).

The Completed section only identifies those reviews completed since the February 2012 Estimates Hearings (QoN 216). This section responds to parts (b) - (c) - (d) - (e).

<b>CURRENT REVIEWS</b> <i>(statutory/non-statutory)</i>	<b>TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATES</b>
<u>Non - Statutory</u> <b>Review of Access to Telecommunication Services by People with Disability, Older Australians and People Experiencing Illness</b>	The review is expected to report to Government by mid 2012.
<u>Non - Statutory</u> <b>2011 Review of the Interactive Gambling Act 2001</b>	The Government released an interim report for public comment on 29 May 2012.
<u>Non - Statutory</u> <b>Review of Telstra Retail Price Controls</b>	The review is expected to be completed by 30 June 2012.
<u>Non - Statutory</u> <b>Review of the Integrated Public Number Database (IPND)</b>	The review is expected to report to Government around the middle of 2012.
<u>Non-Statutory</u> <b>Low Value Parcel Processing Taskforce</b>	The Taskforce is expected to provide a final report to Government in July 2012.
<u>Non-Statutory</u> <b>Review of the Internet Service Providers Voluntary Code of Practice (icode Review)</b>	The final report is expected in the second half of 2012.

<b>PLANNED REVIEWS</b> <i>(statutory/non-statutory)</i>	<b>TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATES</b>
<u>Statutory Review</u>  <b>Review relating to the uses of broadcasting services bands spectrum</b>	Section 35A of the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> requires the Minister to cause to be conducted a review before 1 January 2013 of whether broadcasting services bands spectrum should be used for a particular area or areas to provide television broadcasting or other services. The Government's response to the Convergence Review may negate the need to undertake this review.
<u>Statutory Review</u>  <b>Multichannel Review</b>	Clause 60D of Schedule 4 to the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> requires the Minister to cause to be conducted a review of the content and captioning rules applicable to multi-channelled television services provided by commercial television broadcasters and national broadcasters by 31 December 2012. The Government response to the Convergence Review may negate the need to undertake this review.
<u>Non-Statutory</u>  <b>Media Access Review #2</b>	The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy announced on 3 December 2010 that a further review of captioning and audio description on electronic media would occur in 2013 to consider the effectiveness of action agreed in 2010 in light of transformational communications initiatives, such as the introduction of the National Broadband Network and the switch to digital television.

<b>COMPLETED REVIEWS</b> <i>(statutory/non-statutory)</i>	<b>ESTIMATED COSTINGS AND REPORTING DATES</b>	
<u>Statutory Review</u>  <b>2011-12 Regional Telecommunications Review</b>	<b>WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THIS REVIEW</b>	The total expenses were \$1.09 million in 2011-12 to 31 May. This includes secretariat support.
	<b>TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATE</b>	<i><b>When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed:</b></i> The committee provided its report by the required date of 5 March 2012. The report was publicly released on 23 May 2012. The Government response is required by 5 September 2012.
<u>Non - Statutory Review</u>  <b>Review of the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman Scheme</b>	<b>WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THIS REVIEW</b>	The review was part of the normal business of the department.
	<b>TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATE</b>	<i><b>When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed:</b></i> Final report was released on 4 May 2012. The Government has agreed to the report and its recommendations.
<u>Statutory Review</u>  <b>Review of Schedule 7 to the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (BSA)</b>	<b>WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THIS REVIEW</b>	The Review was undertaken as part of the broader Convergence Review.
	<b>TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATE</b>	<i><b>When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed:</b></i> The Review was undertaken as part of the broader Convergence Review, which was provided to Government on 30 March 2012, and was publically released on 30 April 2012. The Government is considering its response.
<u>Non - Statutory Review</u>  <b>Convergence Review</b>  <u>(includes Schedule 7 of the Broadcasting Services Act, see above)</u>	<b>WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THIS REVIEW</b>	The Convergence Review expenses were approximately \$839 602 in 2010-11, and \$1.936 million in 2011-12 to 31 May.
	<b>TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATE</b>	<i><b>When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed:</b></i> The final report of the Convergence Review was handed to Government on 30 March 2012, and was publically released 30 April 2012. The Government will respond to the Convergence Review in due course.

<b>COMPLETED REVIEWS</b> <i>(statutory/non-statutory)</i>	<b>ESTIMATED COSTINGS AND REPORTING DATES</b>	
<u>Non Statutory Review</u>  <b>Independent Media Inquiry</b>	<b>WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THIS REVIEW</b>	The Independent Media Inquiry expenses were approximately \$1.173m in 2011-12 to 31 May.
	<b>TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATE</b>	<i><b>When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed:</b></i> The Inquiry reported to government on 28 February 2012, and the Report of the Independent Inquiry into the Media and Media Regulation was publically released on 2 March 2012. The Government will take a considered approach to the Inquiry's report in conjunction with the Convergence Review and will respond in due course.
<u>Non - Statutory</u>  <b>Midterm review of the operations of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)</b>	<b>WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THIS REVIEW</b>	The review was conducted as part of normal business of the department.
	<b>TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATE</b>	<i><b>When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed:</b></i> The Minister announced the release of the report of the ACCAN on 20 May. The department will work with ACCAN to implement the report's recommendations.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 173**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Commissioned Reports**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

- a. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- b. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer:**

From 1 July 2011 to 24 May 2012, there have been no reports commissioned by the Government in the Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio. Reports associated with Government Reviews are reported in the answer to Question on Notice 172.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 174**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Carbon Tax**

**Senator McKenzie asked:**

- a. Has the department modelled the impact of the carbon tax on their running costs?
- b. If so, what was the outcome?
- c. If not, why, not?

**Answer:**

- a. The Department has not specifically modelled the impact of the carbon tax on its running costs.
- b. Not applicable.
- c. Given the nature of the Department, with no particular exposure to carbon intensive activities, the Department considered that the arrangements for agency supplementation, which are based on Treasury modelling, would be sufficient.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Budget Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 175**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Electricity Costs**

**Senator McKenzie asked:**

How much electricity does the department use? How much does the department spend on electricity?

**Answer:**

To 30 April 2012, the Department has consumed 1,708,335 kilowatt hours of electricity with expenses being \$198,636.47 GST exclusive.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Hearings May 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Question No: 176**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: Page 117 (23/05/2012)**

**Topic: SE QoN 74 – Additional Estimates**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

**Senator ABETZ:** In fact I have here that it was. I am not asking the ABC this, but I am asking you, Minister. It is quite obvious that this answer must have been prepared before 24 February to have included in it that the third investigation is yet to be finalised. Clearly it was finalised on 24 February. But we did not receive the answer to the question on notice until 30 April—some full two months plus later. What is the story here? Why was this sitting in your office for over two months before we were given the answer?

**Senator Conroy:** I would have to check that and come back to you, Senator Abetz.

**Senator ABETZ:** Take it on notice

**Answer:**

The information regarding the ABC program *The Slap* was sent to the Committee on 30 April 2012 (Question on Notice 74).

The Department and portfolio agencies regularly answer Senate Estimates questions by providing a response that is current as at the date of the Committee hearings. This is particularly the case where the question relates to an ongoing activity. In this instance, this response was drafted to provide the correct answer as at 14 February 2012.

A draft response was provided to the Department on 30 March 2012 for review, which was forwarded to the Minister's Office in mid April and cleared for tabling on 30 April 2012.