

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
Special Broadcasting Service Corporation

Question No: 18

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- b. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- c. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- d. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- e. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

a-b. SBS has spent \$19,205 on a variety of events this financial year to date including our season launch; the launch of *The Family*; the launch of the Parliamentary Friends of SBS; the annual end-of-year communications industry lunch; and an SBS CQ forum event.

c-d. SBS plans on only a modest amount of spending consistent with recent expenditure.

e. SBS spends only a modest amount on hospitality and entertainment but looks to achieve savings wherever it is possible in order to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible.

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Question No: 21

Program No. SBS

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 department/agency for this financial year to date?
- b. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- c. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2012-13?

Answer:

- a. \$121,432.
- b. Media Monitors; Media Link (Community Relations Commission).
- c. \$150,000.

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Question No: 22

Program No. SBS

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 issued. If no, please explain why not.

Answer:

No. SBS is not an APS agency. SBS refreshed its Social Media Protocol at the end of 2011. The Protocol clarifies employee responsibilities when using social media. SBS's Social Media Protocol is available on the SBS website.

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Question No: 23

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Contractors

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date:

1. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
2. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
3. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
4. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
5. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
6. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
7. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
8. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
9. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.
10. What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). Should this be dealt with by HR?

Answer:

1-9: No.

10. People defined as working on 'Contract' are staff on executive employment contracts. The majority of SBS managers are employed on executive contracts. To provide further detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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Question No: 24

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government payment of accounts

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e.within 30 days)?

- a. If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached)
- b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- c. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

SBS is not subject to Government policy in this respect.

- a. SBS's policy in respect of contractors/consultants is generally payment in 14 days. For other payments, SBS's normal payment terms are 30 days. Payments are made in accordance with agreed terms of trade (generally 30 days or less) and SBS policy.
- b. Accounts are paid within the terms of trade. No interest is payable.
- c. Not applicable.

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Question No: 25

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government stationery requirements

Senator Fisher asked:

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:

a. \$111,805.

b. 2009-10 – \$184,983. 2010-11 – \$151,794.

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Question No: 26

Program No. SBS

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. No.
 - a. Not applicable.
 - b. \$11,245.

- 2 and 3. (SBS does not record the cost of newspapers and magazines separately.) No.
 - a. Not applicable.
 - b. \$111,805.

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Question No: 31

Program No. SBS

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)

Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

Not applicable.

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Question No: 33

Program No. SBS

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-e. Not applicable.

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Question No: 34

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi costs

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
- b. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

- a. News and Current Affairs – \$154,510; Television and Online Content – \$89,706; Audio and Language Content – \$50,028; Sales – \$37,473; Corporate – \$49,470; Marketing – \$27,984; Technology and Distribution – \$24,371.
- b. Work related travel.