

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 105

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Page 16 (30/5/13)

Topic: Broadcast Tower

Senator Birmingham asked:

I know these things are always subject to commercial discussions; but for an average broadcast tower, if there is such a thing, are you able to give us what the annual operating maintenance type cost is? What does it cost to have ABC and SBS broadcasting out of one additional tower around Australia each year?

Mr Ebeid: I will happily take that on notice and get those figures to you, but I could not tell you off the top of my head. From what I have seen, those figures do vary greatly, depending on the remoteness of the sites to larger towns and whether those sites are manned or unmanned et cetera. They really do vary from town to town and site to site.

Answer:

SBS has a wide range of transmission services from fully redundant, high power services for capital cities, to small, low power sites in small rural towns. The ongoing costs for these services vary widely between large and small sites. Small sites can be as low as \$60,000 per annum while a major site can cost as much as \$1,000,000 per annum. This figure includes installation, site sharing, power, maintenance, overheads and capital amortisation costs together with a profit margin for the service provider. As SBS terrestrial transmission covers a significant amount of the population in Australia already, any additional towers are likely to be smaller, lower cost services.

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Question No: 106

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Page 17 (30/5/13)

Topic: *Dateline* apology

Senator Abetz asked:

We got the indication in the written answer to question No. 2165, at the bottom of the answer to question 2: '*Dateline* apologises to Hydro Tasmania and to Ta Ann Tasmania for these inaccuracies.' I then asked how many complaints had been received, and we were told there were two and two apologies. Yet, when I asked again, I was told that it was Hydro Tasmania, Ta Ann Tasmania and Sarawak Energy Berhad. Have we apologised to Sarawak Energy Berhad as well?

Mr Ebeid: I believe we have, yes. I think the apology was, in general, to the three—

Senator ABETZ: No, it was not: '*Dateline* apologises to Hydro Tasmania and to Ta Ann Tasmania for these inaccuracies.' You specifically mentioned two – not mentioning the third. At all times we had been told that two formal complaints had been dealt with. It is quite clear that there were three. All I want to check up on is that the third one has, in fact, been apologised to.

Mr Ebeid: If you give me one second—

Senator ABETZ: Or do you say that their complaint was not a formal complaint? If so, what is the difference between a 'complaint' and a 'formal complaint'?

Mr Ebeid: A formal complaint is when the complainant refers to our codes – that we have actually breached our codes – and an informal complaint is one where they are just unhappy about something that is not necessarily breaching our codes.

Senator ABETZ: So, when I ask about 'complaints' and you answer 'formal complaints'—

Mr Ebeid: There is a difference.

Senator ABETZ: Yes, to the unsuspecting punter. I would have thought, for transparency and accuracy, you might have told us upfront that there were, in fact, three complaints and then three apologies. I just wonder why I had to find this out by asking further questions. I fully accept that mistakes and oversights occur. But, when you do realise that two becomes three, is there not a duty to then inform the committee as soon as possible that there was this error?

Mr Ebeid: I am just looking at my notes of the time line; I think that the letter we received from the Sarawak Energy board came in after we spoke at the October Senate estimates. So, at that point, it would have been two.

Senator ABETZ: Right.

Mr Ebeid: I will confirm that that was the case.

Senator ABETZ: That is a very fair explanation—

Mr Ebeid: I am just looking at the time line.

Senator ABETZ: At the time, there was the view that all three had been hardly done by. But take it on notice. If that complaint came in afterwards, that is more than fair enough, and fully understandable.

Mr Ebeid: I do have in my time line that we also definitely responded to the letters for Sarawak, and that is right.

Senator ABETZ: Did you then put that up on your website?

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Mr Ebeid: No, we have not done that. That is not normally our practice. But the reason we put up the letters for both Ta Ann and Hydro Tasmania is that they had published their letters of complaint on their website. Therefore, they had made them publicly available. Normally, complainants would be complaining in their letters to us and we would be treating those as confidential. So, unless we get their permission, we would not put their letters up.

Answer:

Question No. 2165 did not ask for the number of complaints received. In answering the question, it was made clear that SBS was specifically referring to two complaints that had been finalised. It would have been hard to comment on the Ombudsman's findings for any complaints that were not finalised.

Question No. 2545 was a different question. It asked how many complaints had been received. While only two complaints were finalised at the time Question No. 2165 was asked, three complaints had been received when Question No. 2545 was asked.

There was no error or oversight and all of the answers to questions have sought to answer the actual question asked.

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Question No: 107

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Page 18 (30/5/13)

Topic: Mufti of Australia – Destroyed tape recordings

Senator Abetz asked:

Turning to another topic, it has been asserted – and I do not put it any stronger than that – that SBS had a tape or film of the then Mufti of Australia praising suicide bombers. This was in his mosque. Then, after the September 11th attacks, SBS destroyed the tapes. The chances are that you would not know anything about it, but I do ask you on notice but also publicly to ascertain whether than actually occurred.

Senator Conroy: Is this in 2001? Michael was not at the company in 2001.

Senator ABETZ: No. If so, why they were destroyed? Did it ever enter anybody's mind that that sort of film might be fairly important potentially evidentiary-wise?

Mr Ebeid: I would be more than happy to look at it. I do find it very far-fetched. We do not–

Senator ABETZ: Let us hope so.

Mr Ebeid: Yes. I do find it far-fetched, but I would be very happy to look into it, if we can actually find anything out going back that far.

Senator ABETZ: If you can and, if you cannot, let us know and I will go back to the source.

Mr Ebeid: In fact, even our news director was not around back then; so it might be difficult.

Senator ABETZ: I accept what you are saying. I would be interested to ascertain the veracity of that assertion.

Mr Ebeid: If you do have any details, I would be happy to get them from you off-line and I can follow them up, if I have them.

Senator ABETZ: Yes, I do. I will pass that on to your good government affairs adviser, indeed.

Mr Ebeid: I would be happy to.

Senator Conroy: He was not at SBS at the time.

Senator ABETZ: Nor was he at the time.

Senator Conroy: No.

Senator ABETZ: Thank you.

Answer:

SBS has footage from September 2001 of the then Mufti of Australia preaching at Lakemba Mosque. SBS did not destroy this footage. SBS generally does not destroy footage, however footage may be destroyed in some circumstances, for example where there is a licensing issue. In other cases raw footage may be taped over when tapes are recycled.

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Question No: 108

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Page 19 (30/5/13)

Topic: Radio language hours

Senator Birmingham asked:

Then the discrepancy in the number of hours broadcast in language does not make sense. If you have for the National Radio Network 108 hours broadcast in language, for the Melbourne FM station 220 hours broadcast in language and for the Sydney FM radio station 220 hours broadcast in language, how is it that the National Radio Network has half the number of hours broadcast in language across the week?

Mr Ebeid: I think I know what you are getting at now. I am going to need to take that on notice and have a look at these figures and see where the duplication is because I cannot answer that question now.

Answer:

SBS broadcast on both AM and FM frequencies in Sydney and Melbourne. This means that two channels are available for content. The figure of 220 hours for Melbourne and Sydney refers to both the AM and FM frequencies together. The National Radio Network (NRN) is a single network, so has half the number of hours.

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Question No: 109

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Page 21 (30/5/13)

Topic: NITV

Senator LUDLAM asked:

Thank you for coming, Mr Ebeid, and thank you for your answers to the questions that I put on notice about the transition of NITV into SBS, among other things. That looks to me like it has been a very successful transition. What can you tell us about the trends in the number of viewers that NITV has had since being brought into the SBS stable?

Mr Ebeid: Obviously, going from a pay-TV-only channel to a free-to-air channel has increased their viewership significantly. I do not have the reach figures with me at the moment. I think the reach figure is around 1.1 or 1.2 million, but I will have to check that. We know that we are appealing certainly to the broader community as well, which is one of our hopes – that it is a channel not just for Indigenous Australians but for all Australians to really get a good view, a window, into Indigenous culture and stories; and that has been working well as well.

Senator LUDLAM: Great. Would you check those figures and provide them to us?

Mr Ebeid: I will get them to you, yes. I know that the channel does vary from evening to evening in terms of its share, depending on its content, obviously. It does range sometimes up to about 0.6 per cent of share, which is terrific for the channel.

Senator LUDLAM: It would be good to see it benchmarked against the SBS main channel. How many staff in total does NITV have on board? I think you said 43 in your answer to my question.

Mr Ebeid: That sounds about right.

Answer:

NITV has an average reach of 433,388 viewers over 31 weeks. In its first 19 days, NITV brought an additional 270,000 viewers to the SBS network. As its peak, in March 2013, NITV added an additional 330,000 viewers to the SBS network. NITV accounts for 4.4 per cent of SBS's total viewing audience. NITV has 51 staff, 38 of whom are Indigenous.

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Question No: 110

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Page 22 (30/5/13)

Topic: SBS advertising

Senator Ludlam asked:

I turn now to what is probably one of your least favourite subjects – but I guess that is what I get to do – which is in-program advertising on the station. When SBS introduced in-program advertising in late 2006, SBS justified the disruption of programs with the commercial breaks on the basis that the revenue from in-program ads would be used to commission Australian content. In a media release issued by your predecessor on 1 June 2006, in notice of that particular change, it was state:

Since advertising was introduced in 1991, SBS has directed all advertising revenue to program making and the commissioning of programs from independent Australian filmmakers.

It has been revealed within the last financial year that only 37 per cent of television advertising dollars were used to make Australian programs. I just wonder when that policy changed.

Mr Ebeid: Where did the 37 per cent figure that you have quoted come from?

Senator LUDLAM: An answer to a question No. 2386, subquestion 11, from 19 October 2012, I think in response to the last estimates round or the one before last. That would have had the minister's name on it, I suspect, rather than yours. The figure that actually came out was TV advertising revenue of \$46 million, of which \$17.4 million was used to commission Australian content. So clearly there has been a bit of a shift over time.

Mr Ebeid: I will have to take it on notice and come back to you on that. From our accounting perspective, we certainly do not divide up our commercial revenues to say what percentage of that goes to television production. I will need to have a look at where that came from.

Senator LUDLAM: That is okay. It is question No. 2386 and, if you do not have that in front of you–

Mr Ebeid: Yes. It does sound odd to me.

Senator LUDLAM: What sounds odd to me is that there was clearly a policy and the policy has clearly changed. Whether there is direct hypothecation or not, the station is clearly not spending anything like its total advertising revenue on Australian content production.

Senator LUDLAM: Having now together outlined this issue, my question is whether SBS would be willing to revert to its former policy. You might like to take that on notice as well.

Mr Ebeid: Yes. What I would say on that as a general thing is that, over the last five years or so – or I suppose more than that; since that policy was made, it would be nine years – our costs across the business have increased dramatically. We have also invested in new online and digital services which have needed to be funded. I dare say that a fair percentage of our advertising revenues have also had to be diverted to fund our digital and online platforms. So it would be almost impossible to revert to that 2006 policy of saying a blanket 100 per cent of all TV advertising would go to Australian production. I do not think that is realistic, because our costs have increased dramatically across the board. For example, taking on the additional languages in radio has cost

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the organisation a couple of million dollars more a year. That all needs to be funded. The revenue that we get from advertising goes towards all parts of SBS; it is not specific to just TV production.

Senator LUDLAM: I am certainly not contending with you that SBS is not facing funding pressures – everybody in the room agrees with that – although the lift in the last budget was extremely welcome. It is just that there was a policy expressed and at some point it changed. I wonder whether there was an announcement that perhaps we have missed or whether it has just quietly slipped over time.

Mr Ebeid: Certainly, as I say, it is not a policy decision since I have been there, but I will have a look at what has changed.

Senator LUDLAM: I suspect it would have predated your arrival. If we go back through successive budgets, we will find it has been slipping probably since that first year. If it is of value, I have a copy of the question that I can table for you.

Mr Ebeid: I will grab that at the end, thank you.

Answer:

It is not correct to say that only 37 per cent of total advertising dollars are used to make Australian programs. The 37 per cent figure suggested relies on a very narrow definition of program making that excludes News and Current Affairs and Sport.

It is clear from the 2006 press release quoted by Senator Ludlam that a wider definition was intended. The 2006 media release stated the additional revenue will be used to launch expanded one hour news and increase commissioning of Australian multicultural drama and documentaries and other programs in accordance with the Charter.

If the narrow definition of commissioned content only was used, there would not have been mention of the News expansion.

It is not correct to say that SBS has a specific policy of where advertising revenue must be spent, because it is just another form of income in addition to the income from the Australian Government.

In 2011/12, SBS spending on content, News and Current Affairs, Online and Sport is \$90 million (that includes the \$17.4 million Senator Ludlam refers to). This was achieved as a result of both advertising revenue and revenue from Government.

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Question No: 111

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Page 23 (30/3/13)

Topic: SBS advertising

Senator Ludlum asked:

My next question is really around the March amendments to the SBS Act, in which advertising for SBS digital media services was deregulated. There do not appear to be any restrictions there. I wonder what policy SBS is applying to digital media streaming, catch-up programming and that kind of stuff and whether ads are only placed in natural program breaks, or whether the same logic that is applied to your scheduled programming also applies to your streaming service.

Mr Ebeid: You are absolutely right; there is nothing in our act that does limit our advertising on our online services. However, we have taken a view internally to apply similar guidelines for our TV as we do for our online. In fact, it would be less at the moment. We would have only a couple of pre-rolls, for example, and mid-rolls of programs in our online service, whereas we would have more than that on our television service.

Senator Ludlum: Is it likely to be less overall?

Mr Ebeid: Yes. Overall, I think it would be less because when you are sitting in front of a mobile device or a PC, that time is obviously exaggerated. Sitting through five minutes of ads, I think, would be a bad service for our audiences. We obviously do not want to be providing a bad service, so we have taken a view internally that we would certainly not exceed—and we are using the same rules that we are applying on TV to online.

Senator Ludlum: If there are any metrics lying around that you could provide to us on that—

Mr Ebeid: Yes, that is easy. We do have metrics on that and I can provide them to you.

Answer:

SBS's policy for advertising on its digital media services is that the total duration of advertisements shown on long form video content (longer than 10 minutes) will be in accordance with the amount that SBS broadcasts on its television service, that is, a maximum of five minutes per scheduled hour of content. SBS allows one pre-roll advertisement, up to three mid-roll pods, and one post-roll advertisement. For short form content SBS allows one pre-roll advertisement for every three videos within a 24 hour period. SBS follows the recommendations set out in the IAB Australian Online Video Advertising Guidelines in respect of advertising duration. Ad lengths will generally be 15 seconds or 30 seconds in length and may be less. SBS may run 60 second spots in mid-roll breaks during long form videos.

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Question No: 112

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Birmingham asked:

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

Answer:

1. 98. SBS Band 1 – 11; SBS Band 2 – 5; SBS Band 3 – 33; SBS Band 4 – 20; SBS Band 5 – 19; SBS Band 6 – 4; SBS Band 7 – 6.
2. 124. SBS Band 1 – 6; SBS Band 2 – 13; SBS Band 3 – 40; SBS Band 4 – 16; SBS Band 5 – 12; SBS Band 6 – 15; SBS Band 7 – 12; SBS Band 8 – 1; Exec1 – 9.
3. 159. Two years.

Note: All answers include NITV staff and SBS Subscription TV staff (SBS Subscription TV Ltd operated as a division of SBS from 1 July 2012). SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and employees are not employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*. SBS does not classify staff as SES/non-SES.

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Question No: 113

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?
2. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?
3. How many contract staff left department/agency in the year this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?

Answer:

1. 57. SBS Band 1 – 5; SBS Band 2 – 3; SBS Band 3 – 17; SBS Band 4 – 15; SBS Band 5 – 9; SBS Band 7 – 8.
2. 59. SBS Band 1 – 3; SBS Band 2 – 6; SBS Band 3 – 27; SBS Band 4 – 8; SBS Band 5 – 8; SBS Band 6 – 4; SBS Band 7 – 2; SBS Band 8 – 1. This includes 38 employees who left at the end of their specified employment period.
3. 27 employees on common law contracts. This includes 11 employees who left at the end of their contract.

Note: All answers include NITV staff and SBS Subscription TV staff (SBS Subscription TV Ltd operated as a division of SBS from 1 July 2012). SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and employees are not employed under the Public Service Act 1999. SBS does not classify staff as SES/non-SES.

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Question No: 114

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred this financial year to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
2. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
3. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.
4. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
5. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

1. 37 redundancies occurred as a result of the SBS Radio Schedule review; payroll outsourcing; bringing World Movies and STV in-house which has resulted in economies of scale.
2. 37 were involuntary redundancies (see (1) above)
3. Yes
4. See (5) below
5. Three positions in Subtitling have been identified as redundant due to reductions in program subtitling for those language groups.

Note: All answers include NITV staff and SBS Subscription TV staff (SBS Subscription TV Ltd operated as a division of SBS from 1 July 2012). SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and employees are not employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*. SBS does not classify staff as SES/non-SES.

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Question No: 115

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Public Service efficiencies

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per 2013-14 Budget Measure 'Public Service efficiencies' (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No 2 p108).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

1. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by implementing more efficient management structures, through a reduction in expenditure on staff across the Executive Level (EL) 1 and 2, and Senior Executive Service (SES) levels?
2. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by revising down the occupational density target for all new leases, buildings and major fit-outs undertaken by agencies from 16 square metres per occupied workpoint down to 14 square metres?

Answer:

Not applicable. These savings measures do not apply to SBS. However, SBS actively pursues savings efficiencies in staffing and accommodation. Our recent accommodation refurbishments have all resulted in lower than the targeted 14 square metres per occupied workpoint of the Budget Measure.

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Question No: 116

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Printing Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed this financial year to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?

Answer:

SBS printed 800 copies of the SBS Annual Report 2011-12. A PDF version of the SBS Annual Report is also published on the SBS website.

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Question No: 117

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Printing Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed this financial year to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?

Answer:

SBS printed 800 copies of the SBS Annual Report 2011-12. A PDF version of the SBS Annual Report is also published on the SBS website.

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Question No: 118

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Graduate Recruitment

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Provide an update on expenditure for 2014 Graduate Recruitment to date? Please itemise and detail costs.
2. Has any travel been incurred for 2014 Graduate Recruitment? Please itemise and detail costs.

Answer:

SBS does not have a graduate recruitment program.

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Question No: 119

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Advertising

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?
2. Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
3. Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
4. Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
5. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.
6. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
7. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

Answer:

Not applicable. SBS is not an *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) agency.

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Question No: 120

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
2. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning of spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
5. Is the Department/Agency planning of reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimates savings over each year of the forward estimates?

Answer:

1. SBS has spent \$90,525 on a variety of corporate events this financial year to date including: the SBS annual publicity showcase; the annual SBS Parliamentary Showcase; A-League football games; NITV launch; SBS2 launch; and an SBS Board event in Hobart. In addition SBS has spent \$219,000 on a number of commercial sales related events for advertisers and media buyers.
2. Refer to (1).
3. SBS plans on only a modest amount of spending consistent with recent expenditure.
4. SBS plans on only a modest amount of spending consistent with recent expenditure.
5. 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: 121

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Meeting Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
2. What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

Refer to answer to question 120.

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Question No: 122

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Program Launch Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
2. What program launch spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

Not applicable.

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Question No: 123

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
3. 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?

Answer:

1. SBS has regard to guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner as required under s. 93A of the FOI Act. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet provided FOI Guidance Notes to all departments of 28 July 2011.
2. Approximately \$1,700.
3. (a) Four. (b) Access granted in full – 1. Access denied – 2. Documents not identified – 1. (c) No. An extension of time was agreed to in accordance with section 15AA of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* in respect of one request. (d) No.

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Question No: 124

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value of all consultancies.
2. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer:

1.

Supplier	Purpose of consultancy	Total (excl. GST)
<i>Below \$10,000</i>		
Various	Various	\$200,109
<i>Sub total</i>		<i>\$200,109</i>
<i>\$10,000-\$50,000</i>		
Altus Group	Quantity surveying services for accommodation planning	\$23,656
Aurion Corporation	Payroll system development	\$37,747
Australian Valuation Office	Valuation of land, building & equipment	\$33,500
Brian Knight & Associates	Engineering Consulting	\$10,797
Canning, Simon Stratford	Marketing research	\$10,000
Corcoran Media Pty Ltd	Sales strategy STV	\$40,443
Cutthru Pty Ltd	Advertising Sales research	\$40,000
Daryl Jackson Robin Dyke	Architectural services	\$24,000
Futurespace Pty Ltd	Accommodation consulting	\$19,210
Hepburn, Sarah	Organisational development	\$35,095
Horizon Consulting	Business analysis – Technology & Distribution	\$22,367
Integral Dynamics	Executive coaching	\$11,200
Landsburys Property P/L	Artarmon building valuation	\$15,000
Linda R Scott & Associates	Organisational development consultancy	\$10,233

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Linda Tadic – Audiovisual & Digital Media Management	Metadata / retention policy consultancy	\$44,991
Multi Channels Asia Pty Ltd	TV consultancy services	\$45,000
Newton, Richard	IT Consulting	\$11,250
Raicorelink Pty Ltd	IT consulting	\$12,495
Recordkeeping Innovations	Rights Management Consulting	\$26,273
Redrock Consulting	IT consulting	\$23,705
Ricoh Australia Pty Ltd	Unified Communications consultancy	\$39,329
Roger Turvey & Associates	Mechanical Services Engineering consulting	\$14,167
Studio Cream Designs	Brand image concepts organisational development	\$14,058
Talent2 Pty Ltd	Human resources consulting	\$30,000
Techtel Pty Ltd	IT Consulting	\$29,940
TL Risk Pty Ltd	Hostile Environment Training & risk assessments	\$15,000
The Media Federation of Australia	Strategic Advice	\$19,200
The Peninsula Psychology Centre P/L	Change management and management consultancy	\$12,000
Venture Consulting	Strategic advice – Technology and Distribution	\$50,000
<i>Sub total</i>		<i>\$720,657</i>
<i>Above \$50,000</i>		
AECOM Australia P/L	Workplace strategy consultant	\$80,841
Arup P/L	Corporate cultural change project	\$104,328
Cortell Australia Pty Ltd	Financial reporting	\$53,800
Cox Inall Communication	NITV Integration communication strategy	\$125,713
Deloitte Taxation Services	Taxation services	\$56,175
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Financial risk assessment and reporting.	\$219,461
Demos Hemsley Fraser Australia Pty Ltd	Conduct SBS employee training workshops	\$190,152
Generator Talent	Repositioning consultancy – Technology & Distribution	\$84,930
L.E.K Consulting	Strategic advice & planning workshops	\$159,120
L.E.K Consulting	Newsroom integration project	\$185,000
McNair Ingenuity	In Language Market Research	\$200,000
Mindset Group Pty Ltd	Change management –	\$199,875

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	outsourcing of payroll	
Narramore, Christine	Communications and change management	\$72,090
Opscentre P/L	Business Continuity Plan consultant	\$54,900
Pilat Media Ltd	Integrated Broadcast Management System – on-site implementation & consulting	\$78,752
PM-Partner Group	Project management implementation	\$98,200
Sub total		\$1963339
Total		\$2,884105

2.

Supplier	Purpose	Total (excl. GST)
TBA	Architectural planning, financial modelling & strategic advice for development of detailed business case for SBS Accommodation	\$500,000
Linda Tadic – Audiovisual & Digital Media Management	Metadata / retention policy consultancy	\$15,000
TBA	Broadcast Operations - technology consultancy	\$98,000
Total		\$613,000

SBS is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* agency and is not required to publish an Annual Procurement Plan on the AusTender website.

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Question No: 125

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Monitoring

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. 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 services for the year 2012-13?
 - c. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. \$164,837
 - a. Isentia Pty Ltd (trading as Media Monitors); Media Link (Community Relations Commission)
 - b. \$147,000
 - c. \$164,837

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Question No: 126

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Social Media

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. 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 May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issued.
2. Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media?
 - a. If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when usage peaks).
 - b. Has there been a change to the department/agency protocols due to staff usage?
 - c. If no, why not? Will the department/agency monitor usage in the future?
3. Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours).

Answer:

1. No.
2. No. SBS uses social media channels to communicate and engage with its audiences. SBS encourages employee use of social media as it allows SBS and communities to explore, learn and connect in ways that promote SBS's purpose.
3. SBS uses social media channels to communicate and engage with its audiences. SBS encourages employee use of social media as it allows SBS and communities to explore, learn and connect in ways that promote SBS's purpose in an efficient and effective manner.

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Question No: 127

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Internet

Senator Birmingham asked:

Has the Department experienced any internet problems, such as but not limited to slow internet, or internet blackouts? If yes, what was the reason for this? Did it impact the Minister's office?

Answer:

SBS has not experienced any significant problems of this nature.

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Question No: 128

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staff Amenities

Senator Birmingham asked:

What amenities are provided to staff? Provide a list, including any costs and the reason for providing the amenity.

Answer:

Bus service; food and drink vending machines; kitchen facilities; parking; showers; sick rooms; toilets.

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Question No: 129

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Coffee Machines - Purchased

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
2. Why were coffee machines purchased?
3. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
4. Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?
5. Who has access?
6. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
7. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer:

No. Not applicable.

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Question No: 130

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Coffee Machines - Rented

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Does the department/agency rent coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
2. Why are coffee machines rented?
3. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
4. Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?
5. Who has access?
6. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, including a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
7. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer:

1. Yes. One Nespresso Tower CS220 Coffee Machine for the Audio Language Content Division (ALC). It has been rented since 29 September 2011 at a cost of \$882 per quarter (pre GST). There are no ongoing costs for coffee or coffee pods. These are paid for by staff at their own expense.
2. Due to the nature of the ALC Division business, a significant number of staff work outside normal business hours, with 80 per cent of staff in ALC being production staff (either producing or broadcasting LIVE radio programs). Facilitating staff access to coffee has improved both morale and productivity within the Division.
3. Yes, staff are able to quickly access the Nespresso Unit, without having to leave the production floor.
4. The ALC Division has provided for the lease of the equipment in its annual budget.
5. All staff across the Division have access, as well as anybody else in the organisation who wishes to save time and avoid leaving the premises to purchase their coffee.
6. SBS is responsible for maintenance once the 12 month warranty expired. There has been no maintenance cost to date. If required, this would be paid for within the ALC Division's annual budget.
7. There are no ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods. These are paid for by staff at their own expense.

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Question No: 131

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Contractors

Senator Birmingham 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).

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: 132

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Grants

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Could the department/agency provide an update list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
2. Have all grant agreement details been published on its website within the required timeframe? If not, provide details.

Answer:

Not applicable.

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Question No: 133

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Senator Birmingham 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)?

1. 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 the issue is being approached
2. 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?
3. 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.

1. 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.
2. Accounts are paid within the terms of trade. No interest is payable.
3. Not applicable.

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Question No: 134

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Stationary Requirements

Senator Birmingham asked:

What are the department/agency's stationary costs for the financial year to date?

Answer:

\$155,940.

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Question No: 135

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?
2. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
3. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
4. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?
5. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
6. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
7. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?
8. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
9. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Answer:

- 1-2. As a news broadcaster, and as the owner of two subscription television channels broadcast on the Foxtel and Austar platforms, SBS subscribes to Foxtel – all channels.
3. \$13,733.
- 4-5; 7. SBS purchases newspapers and magazines in order to keep abreast of local and international industry developments and news and current affairs coverage. To provide further detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- 6, 8-9. \$80,458 (newspaper and magazine subscriptions).

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Question No: 136

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental/Agency officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
4. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
5. What is the policy for business class airfare tickets? Is there still a reduction in business flights as per the media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State dated 25 September 2012?
6. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total cost of the lounge memberships.
7. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.
8. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

1. Not applicable.
2. \$3.533 million. This includes fares, travel allowance and accommodation. A further breakdown is not available as SBS does not record this information in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided to this question without involving an unreasonable diversion of resources.
3. Travel is arranged according to operational requirements. Many are related to breaking news and current affairs stories and are impossible to predict in advance.
4. See answer to question 2 above.

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5. SBS is not subject to the Government's Lowest Practical Fare Travel Policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines. SBS policy is that domestic travel must be economy class unless duration is greater than four hours. International travel must be economy class unless approval is given for premium economy or business class by the Managing Director or unless it is part of an executive contract.
6. Lounge membership is provided to 29 employees who are frequent travellers. SBS pays for 12 of these memberships at a cost of \$338 per annum.
7. No.
8. No.

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Question No: 137

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

1. \$1,267,885. To provide a list of services and costs would be a very onerous task that would involve significant resources.
2. \$13,011. SBS is unable to provide a list of services and costs as this information is commercial-in-confidence.
3. \$543,422. SBS is unable to provide a list of services and costs as this information is commercial-in-confidence.
4. Nil.

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Question No: 138

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Education Expenses

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the department/agency's guidelines on study?
2. 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.

Answer:

1. The SBS Enterprise Agreement provides for Study Leave.

10. Study Leave

- 10.1. Study leave may be granted if the scope, content and level of the course are relevant to the needs of SBS.

10.2 Leave and/or Reimbursement of Costs

- 10.2.1. Employees may apply for either:
 - (a) study leave and assessment leave in accordance with Clauses 10.3 and 10.4; or
 - (b) assessment leave in accordance with Clause 10.4 and reimbursement of costs associated with the study of up to \$2000.

10.3 Study Leave Provisions

- 10.3.1. Full time Study
 - (a) Unpaid leave can be granted to Employees to undertake a course of full time study provided that SBS's operating requirements permit the leave.
 - (b) Unpaid study leave will count as service for all purposes other than for annual leave.
- 10.3.2. Part time Courses
 - (a) Paid leave can be granted to Employees to undertake part time study on the following conditions.
 - (a) SBS's operating requirements permit the leave.

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- (b) the maximum amount of leave that may be applied for is eight (8) hours' paid leave per week during the course;
- (c) the eight (8) hours per week may be pooled together and Employees may apply to take longer periods of leave;
- (d) paid study leave will count as service for all purposes.

1.3.3. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Employees undertaking part time study may be granted up to thirteen (13) hours' paid study leave each week.

10.4 Assessment Leave Provisions

- 10.4.1. Employees who are granted leave or reimbursement of expenses under clause 10.2 will also be entitled to paid leave to travel to and from, and to attend, compulsory examinations or assessments held during their ordinary hours of duty.

10.5 External or Short Course Study Leave

- 10.5.1. SBS may grant paid study leave and/or reimbursement of costs to Employees to pursue a short course of external study. Courses may include courses on workplace relations if the scope, content and level of the course contribute to understanding of workplace relations.

2. Total SBS training costs were \$225,000 (MyCareer Introduction; Values and Behaviours Training). To provide detail on study leave and costs would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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Question No: 139

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Senator Birmingham 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
5. 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)
6. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - a. The location used
 - b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

1. SBS spent \$11,200 on an executive coaching program by Integral Dynamics. Note that SBS executives and leaders also participated in the Values and Behaviours Training referred to in question 138 in which all staff participated.
2. 1 – Executive contract.
3. 1 – Executive contract. No study leave.
4. Integral Dynamics.
5.
 - a. Staff development and divisional strategy.
 - b. One on one.
 - c. One.

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- d. 16 hours.
 - e. \$11,200.
 - f. Package.
6. Not applicable. The service was provided at SBS Sydney Offices, 14 Herbert Street, Artarmon.

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Question No: 140

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Training

Senator Birmingham 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
5. 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)
6. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - a. The location used
 - b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
 - c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

Nil.

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Question No: 141

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Please list how many staff in each department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
2. 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.
3. What is the paid parental scheme offered by each department and agency? How many staff have used the scheme this financial year to date.

Answer:

1. All employees with more than 12 months service who earn less than \$150,000 per annum and are the primary care giver of the child are eligible to receive payment under the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme. As eligibility is based on primary caring responsibility, the number of eligible staff cannot be identified.
2. SBS. 15. SBS Band 3 – 4; SBS Band 4 – 2; SBS Band 5 – 5; SBS Band 6 – 2; SBS Band 7 – 2.
3. The SBS Enterprise Agreement provides for parental leave. Forty-one.

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Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 142

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Corporate Cars

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many cars are owned by each department/agency?
2. Where is the car/s located?
3. What is the car/s used for?
4. What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?
5. How far did each car travel this financial year to date?

Answer:

Nil. (2)-(5) Not applicable.

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Question No: 143

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

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

Answer:

1. Total: \$795,771. Audio and Language Content – \$45,019; Corporate – \$93,585; Marketing – \$42,276; News and Current Affairs – \$228,699; NITV – \$100,986; Media Sales – \$88,650; Content Sales Distribution \$12,288; Technology and Distribution – \$40,144; Subscription TV – \$41,581; Television and Online Content – \$102,543.
2. Work related travel.

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Question No: 144

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hire Cars

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for hire car costs?

Answer:

1. \$114,868 has been spent on car rentals. A further breakdown is not available as SBS does not record this information in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided to this question without involving an unreasonable diversion of resources.
2. This expenditure is predominately for TV crew car hire whilst news gathering in areas away from SBS's offices.

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Question No: 145

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Credit Cards

Senator Birmingham asked:

Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card. Please update details of the following.

1. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
2. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
3. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
4. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
5. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

A total of 52 credit cards have been issued to staff on the basis of business/operational needs as determined by Division heads. SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and does not use the Australian Public Service employment classifications.

1. Under section 28B of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* it is a criminal offence to misuse a Commonwealth authority credit card. SBS will refer the matter to the Australian Federal Police.
2. Credit card statements are acquitted and approved by the relevant financial delegate on a monthly basis.
3. Please refer to answer under (1).
4. No.
5. All staff issued with credit cards are required to acknowledge the conditions of use on receipt of the card. Credit card statements are acquitted and approved by the relevant financial delegate on a monthly basis.

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Question No: 146

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Electricity Purchasing

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What are the details of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement?
2. What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. SBS has an electricity purchasing agreement with TRUenergy. The Agreement was entered into on 1 July 2010 for a period of three years.
2. \$1,269,808.

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Question No: 147

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Briefings for the Australian Greens and Independents

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include:
 - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
 - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
2. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:
 - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
 - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
 - f. Which Independents have requested briefings and/or information?

Answer:

1. No.
2. No.

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Question No: 148

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Shredders

Senator Birmingham asked:

Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders this financial year? 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. Not applicable.

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Question No: 149

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Protective security policy framework

Senator Birmingham asked:

Provide an update for your department/agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department/agency specific policies and procedures.

Answer:

SBS is not subject to Government policy in this respect, but does apply many of the principles set out in the framework to its operations.

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Question No: 150

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Office Locations

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please provide a list of all office locations for all departments and agencies within the portfolio by:

- a. Department/Agency;
- b. Location;
- c. Leased or Owned;
- d. Size;
- e. Number of Staff at each location and classification;
- f. If rented, the amount and breakdown of rent per square metre;
- g. If owned, the value of the building;
- h. Depreciation of buildings that are owned;
- i. Type of functions and work undertaken.

Answer:

- a. SBS.
- b. Sydney: 14 Herbert Street, Artarmon. Melbourne: Level 2, Alfred Deakin Building Federation Square. Canberra: Press Gallery, Parliament House.
- c. Sydney – owned. Melbourne – leased; Canberra – licence.
- d. Sydney: 17,124m² (offices, studios, loading dock, cafe and warehouse). Melbourne: 2998m². Canberra: 119m².
- e. Total staff (full time and temporary): Sydney: 836 (SBS Bands 1-8 and Common Law Contract). Melbourne: 138 (SBS Bands 1-8 and Common Law Contract). Canberra: 11 (SBS Bands 1-8 and Common Law Contract).
- f. Melbourne: \$37,995/month; \$317/m². Canberra: \$14,741/quarter; \$425/m².
- g. Sydney: \$64.5m.
- h. \$144,051/month.
- i. Providing multilingual and multicultural television, radio and online services. The Sydney building is a purpose built television and radio broadcasting studio and office complex.

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Question No: 151

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Communications Staff

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:
 - a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.
 - b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.
 - c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.
 - d. How many are graphic designers?
 - e. How many are media managers?
 - f. How many organise events?
2. Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios? If yes, why? When was it established? What is the set up cost? What is the ongoing cost? How many staff work there and what are their classifications?

Answer:

1.
 - a. Marketing publicity and communications staff: SBS Band 7 – 6; SBS Band 5 – 3; SBS Band 3 – 4. Sydney. Corporate communications staff: SBS Band 4 – 1. Sydney.
 - b. Marketing publicity staff on contract: 2. Corporate communications staff on contract: 1. Sydney.
 - c. SBS 2 Marketing Project Manager: SBS Band 5 – 1; Communications Specialist, Audio and Language Content: SBS Band 3 – 1. Sydney.
 - d. Nil.
 - e. One.
 - f. Three.
2. As a national broadcaster, SBS has television and radio broadcast studios. All of SBS's functions relate to SBS's function as a national broadcaster.

Note: SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and employees are not employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*. SBS does not classify staff as SES/non-SES.

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Question No: 152

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Senator Birmingham asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) 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.

Answer:

SBS provides the following equipment to staff:

- All staff have a PC (or laptop where applicable) at an average lease cost of \$600 per annum.
- Some staff also have a smartphone at an average purchase cost of \$800 issued in accordance with operational requirements. The ongoing cost is approximately \$70 per month.
- Some staff are issued with standard Nokia mobile phones with a purchase cost of \$200 with an ongoing cost of \$70 per month.
- A few management and content staff have been issued with iPads. These purchases require Managing Director approval, are generally replaced every two years. The purchase price is currently \$799 with an ongoing monthly cost of \$49.
- There are 50 internet dongles used by staff. These cost approximately \$200 and the average ongoing cost is a data plan of \$49 per month.

Mobile data devices (smartphones and tablets) are issued to employees to gain mobile access to the company email system, the internet and general IT resources. In providing staff with equipment to fulfil their duties away from SBS offices, the nature and needs of individual roles are taken into account and approved by senior management. SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and does not use the Australian Public Service employment classifications.