

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

Question No: 404

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: Pages 135-136 (18/10/2011)

Topic: \$100m Suburban Jobs Program

Senator Joyce asked:

Senator JOYCE: Mr Quigley, tell me everything that you know about the suburban jobs program.

Mr Quigley: I am not sure that I understand the question.

Senator JOYCE: It is about the suburban job program.

Senator Conroy: It is a program that was discussed yesterday, I think, in Mr Burke's portfolio.

Senator JOYCE: It was actually today. Do you know of the suburban jobs program, Mr Quigley?

Mr Quigley: No, I am afraid that I do not.

Senator JOYCE: Apparently, the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has told us that they have \$100 million and one of the main aspects is to connect to the NBN to provide employment for suburban areas.

Senator Conroy: I do not think that they mean physically doing the labouring. You were talking about the digital economy yesterday. I think that I was present for some of those discussions.

Senator JOYCE: No. The department said that one of the key aspects of this program is to connect with the NBN, and they have put \$100 million aside to do it.

Senator Conroy: I am happy to take that on notice and to pass on to Mr Burke what is meant by that statement. But I am not quite sure that what you think it means is exactly what they mean.

Senator JOYCE: It is from earlier today. It was quite succinct.

Senator Conroy: I am happy to take it on notice.

Answer:

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is responsible for the management of the Suburban Jobs Programs. The Suburban Jobs Program aims to support state and local governments to plan and provide for increased employment opportunities in the growth areas of Australia's major capital cities.

It is anticipated that projects funded under the Suburban Jobs Program will comprise a range of activities such as public good capital works, planning, research, community engagement initiatives, or demonstration of innovative ways in which the digital economy can be used to reduce travel times between work and services. Taking advantage of digital economy opportunities that may be facilitated by the National Broadband Network is just one aspect of the Suburban Jobs Program.

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Question No: 405

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Departmental Divisions

Senator Birmingham asked:

- a. Within the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, how many divisions are there and what are their names?
- b. How many staff are there in each of these divisions?
- c. Where is each division located and what are their staffing numbers?

Answer:

- a. Please refer to of the department's 2010-11 Annual Report, page 7, Figure 1.2, Organisation Chart.
- b. Information on the department's staffing numbers and locations can be found in the department's 2010-11 Annual Report, Appendix 5, Staffing Statistics (pages 106 to 108).
- c. Information on the department's staffing numbers and locations can be found in the department's 2010-11 Annual Report, Appendix 5, Staffing Statistics (pages 106 to 108).

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Question No: 406

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Departmental Offices

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many office locations are there within your department and where is each located?
- b. What is the size of each of these offices and are they leased or owned?
- c. If the office is rented, what is the amount and what is the breakdown of rent per square metre?
- d. What is the value of the buildings owned and what is the depreciation of those buildings?

Answer:

Please note all figures are exclusive of GST.

- a. The department is presently accommodated at two locations in Canberra and one location in Sydney.
 - 38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT
 - 44 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT
 - 31-33 Market Street, Sydney NSW
- b. Office size details.
 - 38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT: leased - 8,975.2 m²
 - 44 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT: leased - 2,628 m²
 - 31-33 Market Street, Sydney NSW: leased – 1,877.5 m²
- c. 38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT, leased, 8,975.2 m².
 - \$410/sqm/annum

44 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT, leased, 2,628 m².

 - Level 1 Suite 1A (626sqm) \$413.34/sqm/annum
 - Level 1 Suite 2 (1024sqm) \$462.53/sqm/annum
 - Level 2 Suite 2 (978sqm) \$462.53/sqm/annum

31-33 Market Street, Sydney, leased, 1,877.5 m².

 - Level 9 (139 sqm) \$455/sqm/annum
 - Level 14 (384.5sqm) \$495/sqm/annum
 - Level 11 and Level 18 (1354 sqm) \$499.16/sqm/annum
- d. Not Applicable.

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Question No: 407

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Overseas Travel

Senator Birmingham asked:

How many future overseas trips is DBCDE currently planning?

Answer:

As at 30 September 2011, 5 overseas visit proposals had been approved for future travel.

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Question No: 408

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Education Expenses

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please detail all staff training programs for which DBCDE paid in financial year 2010-11, including costs, numbers of participants, the title of each training program and the name of each training provider.

Answer:

Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice 433.

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Question No: 409

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Advertising

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please detail all advertising expenditure in financial year 2010-11 by campaign, including the campaign's purpose, total cost (including campaign research and design) and media (i.e. print, radio, TV etc) involved. In each case, if the campaign was part of a broader strategy, what other communications activities were undertaken and at what cost? Please provide a similar breakdown on budgeted future spending.

Answer:

Digital Switchover

Refer to answer at Budget Estimates Hearing, May 2011, Question on Notice 232.

National Broadband Network

Refer to answer at Budget Estimates Hearing, May 2011, Question on Notice 232.

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Question No: 410

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Conferences

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please detail any overseas international conferences partly or fully funded by the Department in financial year 2010-11. For each conference fully funded please identify:

- a. the venue;
- b. the reason for each conference;
- c. the number of registered participants;
- d. whether consultancy fees were paid for organisation of the conference;
- e. to whom were any consultancy fees paid; and
- f. the cost of each consultancy?

Answer:

The department did not partly or fully fund any overseas international conferences for the financial year 2010-11.

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Question No: 411

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Freedom of Information (FOI)

Senator Birmingham asked:

For both calendar year 2011 to date and financial year 2010-11, how many Freedom of Information applications have been received? Please provide breakdowns of the numbers of applications granted in full, granted in part, refused, withdrawn and still being processed. For those withdrawn, please provide a further breakdown indicating whether the application was withdrawn before or after the applicant was notified of estimated costs.

Answer:

For the calendar year 2011 to date, as at 22 November 2011, fifty-seven (57) Freedom of Information applications have been received by the Department. Of the fifty-seven requests received, the Department granted access in full on five requests; granted access in part on thirteen requests; refused access in full to ten requests; and twenty-two requests were taken to be withdrawn. For those requests that were withdrawn, nine requests were withdrawn after the applicant was notified of the estimated costs.

For the financial year 2010-11, sixty-eight (68) Freedom of Information applications were received by the Department. Of the sixty-eight requests received, the department granted access in full on three requests; granted access in part on seventeen requests; refused access in full to six requests and twenty-nine requests were taken to be withdrawn. For those requests that were withdrawn, nineteen requests were withdrawn after the applicant was notified of the estimated costs.

Note: Sub totals do not add to the total number of requests received in a specified period as some ongoing requests are carried from one period to the next.

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Question No: 412

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

- a. A total of 41 ongoing (permanent) staff were recruited this financial year to date (1 July 2011 to 31 October 2011).
- b. The classifications of these staff are as follows:

Classification	Number of staff
APS 5	6
APS 6	12
EL 1	19
EL 2	4
Total	41

- c. A total of 4 non-ongoing (temporary) positions have been created this FYTD.
- d. A total of 37 employees have been employed on non-ongoing (temporary) contracts this financial year. The average length of their non-ongoing employment period is 7.78 months.

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Question No: 413

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many permanent staff were recruited for the year 2010-11?
- b. What classification are these staff?
- c. How many temporary positions exist or were created for the year 2010-11?
- d. For the year 2010-11, how many employees were employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

- a. A total of 95 ongoing (permanent) staff were recruited for the year 2010-11.
- b. The classifications of these staff are as follows:

Classification	Number of staff
Graduates	6
APS 1	6
APS 2	0
APS 3	5
APS 4	4
APS 5	9
APS 6	32
EL 1	21
EL 2	10
SES B1	1
SES B2	0
SES B3	1
Total	95

- c. A total of 6 non-ongoing (temporary) positions were created in the 2010-11 financial year.
- d. A total of 118 employees were employed on non-ongoing (temporary) contracts in the 2010-11 financial year. The average length of their non-ongoing employment period was 8.97 months.

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Question No: 414

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Fisher asked:

Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.

If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening

Answer:

The Department currently has no specific plans for staff reductions but continues to implement process improvements that will enable it to use its resources more efficiently in line with its Budget and Forward Estimates.

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Question No: 415

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Advertising

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – has the Department undertaken in 2011-12? Provide details of each, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
- b. Did the Department of Finance and Deregulation provide any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
- c. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)? Provide the details for each advertising item.
- d. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
- e. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

Answer:

- a. The campaign advertising undertaken by the department was under program 1.3: Broadcasting and Digital Switchover. To 30 September 2011 \$777,611 (GST exclusive) was expensed.

To 30 September 2011 \$87,297 (GST exclusive) was expensed on non-Campaign advertising undertaken by the department.

Universal McCann and BMF have provided Campaign services. Adcorp provided non-Campaign services.
- b. In 2011-12 the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy consulted with Communication Advisory Branch (CAB) when progressing the Digital Switchover Campaign.
- c) Yes, the campaign and the materials reviewed by the Independent Communications Committee in 2011-12 have been:
 - Media strategy and media buy; and
 - Indigenous and Non English Speaking Background strategies, collateral and radio ads for areas of Southern and Central NSW, the ACT and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

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d. and e. The National Cyber Security Awareness Week is a communication program to be held in June 2012. Porter Novelli has been engaged to assist with this communication initiative. There will be no costs for media advertising for the Cyber Security Awareness Week.

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Question No: 416

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Board Appointments

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
- b. Detail any board appointments for the year 2010-11.
- c. Please detail any board appointments for the FYTD.

Answer:

- a. The following table reflects the gender ratio (as at 31 October 2011) of portfolio boards/bodies, excluding the non-Government appointments (Managing Director positions of ABC, Australia Post and SBS).

Board/Body	Gender Ratio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation	4 Female: 2 Male
Australian Communications and Media Authority	1 Female: 6 Male
Australia Post	2 Female: 5 Male
Convergence Review Committee (Short-term)	1 Female: 2 Male
Independent Media Inquiry Panel (Short-term)	2 Male
NBN Co	2 Female: 7 Male
Regional Telecommunication Independent Review Committee	2 Female: 4 Male
Special Broadcasting Service	4 Female: 3 Male

- b. Please refer to the response to Budget Estimates Question on Notice 237 part b that provided details for board appointments for 2010-11.
- 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

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Question No: 417

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Freedom of Information (FOI)

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Has the Department received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b. How many requests has the Department received for the year 2010-11? How many have been granted or denied?
- c. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for the year 2010-11?
- d. How many FOI requests has the Department received for the FYTD? How many have been granted or denied?
- e. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this FYTD?

Answer:

- a. The Department follows the Guidelines and advice issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner when processing Freedom of Information requests. The Department also notes guidance issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to all Departments on 28 July 2011.
- b. Please see the answer to Question on Notice 411.
- c. Nil; conclusive certificates were abolished on 7 October 2009.
- d. For the financial year to date, as at 22 November 2011, seventeen (17) Freedom of Information applications have been received by the Department. Of the seventeen requests received, the Department granted access in full on two requests; granted access in part on four requests and refused access in full to four requests.
- e. Nil; conclusive certificates were abolished on 7 October 2009.

Note: Sub totals do not add to the total number of requests received in a specified period as some ongoing requests are carried from one period to the next.

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Question No: 418

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Community Cabinet

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held for the year 2010-11?
- b. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11? What was the total cost of this travel?
- c. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11? What was the total cost of this travel?
- d. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11?

Answer:

- a. & b. Costs of official travel by Ministers and accompanying ministerial staff are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
- c. & d. Refer to the response to May 2011 Budget Estimates Question on Notice 239 for details of costs for Departmental officers attending Community Cabinet meetings, to end May 2011. In addition, a Deputy Secretary from the Department attended the Community Cabinet meeting in Palmerston, NT on 29 June 2011 and the total cost of their travel was \$1028.37. Other travel expenses totalled \$307.14 (GST Exclusive).

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Question No: 419

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Community Cabinets

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

a-d This FYTD, as at 30 September 2011, there was no attendance at the Community Cabinet meetings by the Minister or Ministerial and Departmental staff.

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Question No: 420

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Reviews

Senator Fisher asked:

For the year 2010-11:

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

Answer:

Please refer to the response to Question on Notice 240 asked at the May 2011 Budget Estimates Hearings.

From 26 May – 30 June 2011 no additional reviews were commenced in the Broadband Communications and Digital Economy portfolio.

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Question No: 421

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Reviews

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date:

- a. What reviews are planned?
- b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- c. What reviews have been concluded this FYTD?
- d. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- e. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- f. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?

Answer:

For the financial year 2011/12 (to October 2011) the following table provides details: Current and Planned Reviews section responds to part (a) and (b) and Completed section responds to part (c) – (f).

CURRENT/PLANNED/COMPLETED REVIEWS 2011/12

CURRENT REVIEWS <i>(statutory/non-statutory)</i>	TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATES
<u>Statutory Review</u> 2011-12 Regional Telecommunications Review	Part 9B of the <i>Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999</i> provides for an independent review of regional telecommunications to be conducted by the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee. The committee must provide its report by 5 March 2012.
<u>Statutory Review</u> Review of Schedule 7 to the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> (BSA)	Subclause 118(1) of Schedule 7 to the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> provides that within three years after commencement of the Schedule, the Minister must cause to be conducted a review of the operation of the Schedule and consider whether it should be amended or repealed. The review of Schedule 7 commenced on 12 December 2010 as part of the Convergence Review. The Convergence Review is expected to report to Government by 31 March 2012.
<u>Non - Statutory</u> Review of the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman Scheme	Final report to Government expected in late 2011.
<u>Non - Statutory</u> Convergence Review	The Government has launched a Convergence Review of communications regulation. The Review is expected to report to Government by 31 March 2012.
<u>Non Statutory</u> Independent Media Inquiry	The panel is expected to provide a report to Government by 28 February 2012 and work with the Convergence Review Committee to consider its findings in the Convergence Review.
<u>Non - Statutory</u> Review of Access to Telecommunication Services by People with Disability, Older Australians and People Experiencing Illness	Final report to Government is expected in early 2012.
<u>Non - Statutory</u> 2011 Review of the Interactive Gambling Act 2001	Submissions in response to the discussion paper closed on 21 October 2011. Following completion of the review, a report will be provided to the Government in the first half of 2012.
<u>Non - Statutory</u> Midterm review of the operations of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)	The closing date for submissions was 19 October 2011. Following the completion of the review, a report will be provided to the Government in the first half of 2012.
<u>Non - Statutory</u> Review of Telstra Retail Price Controls	The department is currently conducting a review of Telstra's retail price controls in conjunction with the ACCC. The current price control arrangements expire on 30 June 2012. Following the completion of the review, a report will be provided to the Government.

CURRENT/PLANNED/COMPLETED REVIEWS 2011/12

PLANNED REVIEWS <i>SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN 2011/12</i> (statutory/non-statutory)	TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATES
<u>Statutory Review</u> Review about the allocation of new commercial television broadcasting licences	Section 35A of the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i> requires the Minister to cause to be conducted a review before 1 January 2012 of whether one or more commercial television licences that use the broadcasting services bands should be allocated using a price-based system for a particular area or areas of Australia; and if so, what variations (if any) should be made to any licence area plans in force.
<u>Non-Statutory Review</u> <u>2011/12 Review of the Integrated Public Number Database (IPND)</u>	The Minister announced the IPND Review on 17 November 2011. Following the completion of the review, a report will be provided to the Government in early 2012. (As at October 2011 this was still a planned review)

COMPLETED REVIEWS (statutory/non-statutory)	ESTIMATED COSTINGS AND REPORTING DATES	
<u>Statutory Review</u> Review of regional digital radio technologies	WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THIS REVIEW	The review was part of the normal business of the department.
	TIMING AND EXPECTED REPORTING DATE	<i>When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed:</i> The Minister tabled the review report in both Houses of Parliament on 12 October 2011. The government is considering its response.

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Question No: 422

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Monitoring

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for the year 2010-11?
- b. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- c. What is the estimated budget to provide this same services for the year 2011-12?
- d. What has been spent providing these services FYTD?

Answer:

- a. 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 the year 2010-11 is as per Question on Notice 423.
- b. As per Question on Notice 423.
- c. As per Question on Notice 423.
- d. As per Question on Notice 423.

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Question No: 423

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Monitoring

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department for the year 2010-11?
- b. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- c. What is the estimated budget to provide this same services for the year 2011-12?
- d. What has been spent providing these services FYTD?

Answer:

- a. The total expenditure for media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etc, provided to the department for the year 2010-11 was \$259,455 (GST inclusive).
- b. Media Monitors provides the department with this service.
- c. The estimated expense of providing these services for the department in 2011-12 is \$290,000 (GST exclusive).
- d. As at 31 October 2011, the department's expenditure for this service was \$106,979 (GST inclusive).

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Question No: 424

Program No: Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Social Media

Senator Fisher asked:

Has there been any changes to department social media or protocols about staff access and usage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2011? Please explain.

Answer:

The department has recently updated its Social Media Guidelines. The revised guidelines identify various social media tools used by the department and provide staff with practical guidance on the use of these tools.

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Question No: 425

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio for the year 2010-11? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- b. How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- c. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

Please refer to the response to Question on Notice 243 asked at the May 2011 Budget Estimates Hearings.

From 26 May – 30 June 2011 no reports were commissioned in the Broadband Communications and Digital Economy portfolio.

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Question No: 426

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

From 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 no reports have been commissioned by the Government in the Broadband Communications and Digital Economy portfolio.

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Question No: 427

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government stationery requirements

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How much was spent by the department on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationary requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) in 2010-11?
- b. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer:

- a. \$3,505.00 (GST exclusive)
- b. For 2011-12, the expense to 30 September 2011 is \$300.00 (GST exclusive). We envisage similar expenses for the 2011-12 period as for 2010-11.

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Question No: 428

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Does the department subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)?
- b. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
- c. What was the cost for 2010-11?
- d. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer:

- a-c) Refer to answer at Budget Estimates Hearings May 2011, Question on Notice 247 (a).
- d. The estimated expense for 2011-12 is \$3,000 (GST exclusive).

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Question No: 429

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Does the department subscribe to newspapers?
- b. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
- c. What was the cost for 2010-11?
- d. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer:

- a-c.) Refer to answer at Budget Estimates Hearings May 2011, Question on Notice 247 (b).
- d. 2011-12 costs are expected to be similar or less.

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Question No: 430

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Does the department subscribe to magazines?
- b. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
- c. What was the cost for 2010-11?
- d. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Answer:

- a-c) Refer to answer at Budget Estimates Hearings May 2011, Question on Notice 247 (c).
- d. The estimated cost for 2011-12 is \$26,000 (GST exclusive).

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Question No: 431

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately,) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
- b. For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
- c. For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.

Answer:

- a) & b) Please refer to the response to May 2011 Budget Estimates Question on Notice 248 for details of travel for 2010-11, as at 26 May 2011.

For the remainder of 2010-11, the Minister undertook two overseas visits:
Paris/Netherlands/France (4-9 June 2011); and United Kingdom/France (26 June – 1 July 2011)

Costs of official travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and accompanying ministerial staff are paid for and available from the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance).

Official gifts are the responsibility of the Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch (CERHOS) of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

- c) Please refer to the response to May 2011 Budget Estimates Question on Notice 248 for details of travel as at 26 May 2011.

For the remainder of the year 2010-11, one departmental officer travelled with the Minister to France (26 June – 1 July 2011) as part of the Minister's official travelling party.

Details of the official's travel with the Minister are outlined below. No costs were attributable to gifts or security.

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Delegate	Destination	Duration	Airfare ex GST	Accommodation ex GST	Other ex GST
First Assistant Secretary	Paris, France only	26 June – 1 July 2011	\$9,434.27	\$1,352.16	\$278.35

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Question No: 432

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

- a. & b. Costs of official travel by Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and accompanying ministerial staff are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). The Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch (CERHOS) of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is responsible for gifts.
- c. Departmental officers at times travel interstate to attend a meeting with the Minister or to provide support at an event the Minister has travelled to. However, the Department's financial travel records do not differentiate from such trips and would not be able to identify with any accuracy when departmental officers have accompanied the Minister on a domestic visit.

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Question No: 433

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Education Expenses

Senator Fisher asked:

For the year 2010-11, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant.

Answer:

The department conducted a range of in-house training programs broadly covering financial management, legal awareness and technical and personal skills development. A total of 986 staff attended these internal programs; some staff may have attended more than one session. Staff also attended conferences, seminars and professional skills training provided by external organisations.

The department has 55 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 expenditure in 2010-11 relating to staff training (both internal and external) and associated costs, seminars, conferences, study assistance and the associated Fringe Benefits Tax was \$1,350,174 (GST exclusive).

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Question No: 434

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Education Expenses

Senator Fisher asked:

For the FYTD, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant.

Answer:

The department has conducted a range of in-house training programs broadly covering legal awareness and technical and personal skills development. As at 31 October 2011, a total of 475 staff have attended these internal programs; some staff may have attended more than one session. Staff also attended conferences, seminars and professional skills training provided by external organisations.

At 31 October 2011, the department had 20 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 as at 31 October 2011 relating to staff training (both internal and external) and associated costs, seminars, conferences, study assistance and the associated Fringe Benefits Tax was \$375,004 (GST exclusive).

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Question No: 435

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training 2010-11

Senator Fisher asked:

In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by the department, please provide the following information for the year 2010-11:

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
4. The names of all service providers engaged

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

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

Where a service was provided at any location other than the 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
- iv. Any costs the department incurred to use the location

Answer:

Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice 433.

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Question No: 436

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training FYTD

Senator Fisher asked:

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

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted
4. The names of all service providers engaged

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

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

Where a service was provided at any location other than the 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
- iv. Any costs the department incurred to use the location

Answer:

Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice 434.

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Question No: 437

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Please list how many staff in the department are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
- b. For the year 2010-11 list which portfolio department are providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.

Answer:

- a. Eligibility for the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme is determined by the Family Assistance Office and is subject to a number of criteria including a work and income test.
- b. The department registered to participate in the scheme and was prepared to receive and make payments from 1 January 2011. No claims were received in the 2010-11 year and therefore no payments were made.

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Question No: 438

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator Fisher asked:

For the FYTD list which portfolio departments are providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.

Answer:

Eligibility for the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme is determined by the Family Assistance Office (FAO) and is subject to a number of criteria including a work and income test. The department registered to participate in the scheme and was prepared to receive and make payments from 1 January 2011. To date two claims have been received and the respective payments have been made.

While the department passes on the payments between the FAO and eligible recipients, the department is not responsible for the scheme and as such this is a matter for the FAO and the staff who access the scheme.

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Question No: 439

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Corporate Cars

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many cars are owned by the department in your portfolio?
- b. Where is/are the car/s located?
- c. What is/are the car/s used for?
- d. What was the cost of each car for 2010-11?
- e. How far did each car travel in 2010-11?

Answer:

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

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Question No: 440

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Carbon Price Legislation

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How was your department consulted in the development of the carbon price package?
- b. Is the carbon price package consistent with all of the policies of your department?

Answer:

- a. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy was not involved in the development of the carbon price package.
- b. Departments are unable to comment on government policy.

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Question No: 441

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Communications

Senator Fisher asked:

How many communications people are there in your department? List their classification, position description, services they provide to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and any guidelines they must adhere to.

Answer:

There are 17 staff in the department engaged partly or wholly in externally focused public affairs activities (such as promoting events to the media and engaging with the media on a daily basis and advising on strategic communication activities).

No. of staff	Position Description	Classification
1	Assistant Secretary, Communication and Media Branch.	SES Band 1
4	Managers	EL2-PAM
12	Communication Advisers	EL1-PA APS6 -PA
17		

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Question No: 442

Program No. Corporate & Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Training for Portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries

Senator Fisher asked:

How much is 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.

Answer:

Nil.