

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 543

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN Rollout

Senator MacDonald asked:

What suburbs have been chosen in the second stage of the NBN rollout in Townsville?

Answer:

The maps available and publicly announced for the next stage of the Townsville rollout are available on NBN Co's website.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 544

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN Rollout

Senator MacDonald asked:

What process, including consultation, is followed to select the suburbs to be part of the second round of rollouts?

Answer:

There are a number of factors that are taken into account when selecting sites for the rollout. The most important criterion in the early stages of the network is completing the construction of the sites previously announced and the availability of Telstra infrastructure. This infrastructure allows NBN Co to build FAN sites and points of interconnect, which are used not only for the fibre access network but also for the Fixed Wireless network and for connection to Satellite earth stations.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 545

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN Co - contracts

Senator Xenophon asked:

What is NBN Co's procurement policy when it comes to awarding contracts?

Answer:

NBN Co's procurement policies are based on the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines and the Australian National Audit Office Better Practice Guide "Fairness and Transparency in Purchasing Decisions" ensuring high standards of probity, transparency and value.

The procurement policy has been approved by the NBN Co Board and is administered by the procurement team in NBN Co.

Depending on the value, individual procurements follow a 10-step structured sourcing process which includes defining a sourcing strategy and specific evaluation and selection criteria.

Award recommendations for high value contracts are scrutinised by a Steering Committee and senior management. Contract award recommendations follow the Delegations of Authority regime as approved by the NBN Co Board. Those contracts which are valued at over \$25 million must be approved by the NBN Co Board.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 546

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN Co - contracts

Senator Xenophon asked:

According to an article in The Australian (17 October), only 23 percent of contracts – around \$1.75 billion out of a total \$7.4 billion – has been given to Australian-controlled companies. The article goes on to say that NBN Co disputes this figure and that it is closer to 50 per cent. Which figure is correct?

Answer:

NBN Co has done a more accurate analysis that takes the Australian component into account which shows that close to 50 per cent of NBN Co's procurement expenditure involves "Australian Content".

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 547

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN Co - contracts

Senator Xenophon asked:

With the \$1.1 billion deal with Ericsson and the \$1.5 billion deal with Alcatel Lucent ... were any Australian tenders in the running for those contracts?

a. (If yes) Why were the Australian tenders ruled out?

Answer:

No Australian tenderer made the shortlists as the principal contractor for these procurements. Both Alcatel Lucent and Ericsson have a large Australian operation employing a significant number of high skilled jobs. Furthermore, many Australian businesses play subcontract roles for both Ericsson and Alcatel Lucent. As subcontractors they supply specific equipment and services to Ericsson and Alcatel Lucent for the NBN Co contracts.

The advanced technologies and extensive technical backup required by NBN Co for the Fibre and Fixed Wireless networks is only available from a small number of leading global manufacturers including Ericsson and Alcatel Lucent.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 548

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN Co

Senator Xenophon asked:

What weight, if any, is given to Australian companies and local small to medium sized businesses? For example, if you get two identical tenders for a project and one is Australian and the other is a foreign company, which would you choose?

Answer:

NBN Co's procurement policy is based on the Commonwealth procurement guidelines, which have specific reference to Australian and New Zealand small-to-medium-sized enterprises.

NBN Co seeks local content and sourcing arrangements in its major contracts, particularly where there is known local supply capacity or the potential to promote additional local production through NBN Co contracts. This has led already to around half of current contract values being for local content.

This is particularly noteworthy given the heavy weighting in our initial procurement needs for components and equipment. The proportion of local content is likely to increase significantly as more service contracts are awarded, such as the construction contracts, which by their nature are locally sourced.

We expect that between 16,000 and 18,000 jobs will be generated during the peak of the construction phase. This job count does not include employment generated via other services contracts – such as IT, technical services or in fact NBN Co staff. It also doesn't include employment and flow-on benefits to other industries from the wages and services paid by NBN Co and its contractors.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 549

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN Co

Senator Xenophon asked:

Given NBN Co is a taxpayer-funded entity, and the NBN is taxpayer funded infrastructure, do you acknowledge that greater weight should be given to an Australian company?

Answer:

Please see answer to Question on Notice 548.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 550

Program No. NBN Co Limited

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:

For the period 1 July 2011 to 23 Nov 2011 NBN Co has:

- a. Permanently recruited 421 staff

- b. Classification – see table below:

Operational	141
Construction	96
ITT	91
Sales/Marketing	32
Consulting/Strategy/Plan	21
Account/Finance	11
Facilities/Security	10
Human Resource & Recruit	9
Administrative/Clerical	6
Legal	1
Project/Program Manage	1
Media	1
Customer Serv/Call Centr	1
Total	421

- c. The number of temporary positions created was 46.

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
NBN Co Limited

d. Refer table below:

Number of New Contractors and Average Length of Employment		
	Values	
Row Labels	Count of Employee ID	Average in Months
Contractor - Corporation	2	4.86
Contractor - Individual	2	6.02
Grand Total	4	5.44

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 551

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many permanent staff recruited this FY 10/11?
- b. What classification are these staff?
- c. How many temporary positions exist or have been created this FY 10/11?
- d. This FY 10/11, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 NBN Co has:

- a. Permanently recruited 678 staff
- b. Classification – see table below:

Function	Number of Employees
Account/Finance	27
Administrative/Clerical	22
Construction	88
Consulting/Strategy/Plan	38
Customer Service/Call Centre	1
Facilities/Security	15
Human Resource & Recruitment	25
ITT	231
Legal	7
Media	2
Operational	155
Other	3
Project/Program Management	7
Sales/Marketing	57

- c. Temporary positions created: 61
- d. 32 contractors. Average length of service: 10 months.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 552

Program No. NBN Co Limited

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:

No.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 553

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Senator Fisher asked:

How has the efficiency dividend been implemented?

Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend.

Answer:

As a Government Business Enterprise, NBN Co is not subject to the government's efficiency dividend.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 554

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Advertising

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – has the Agency undertaken in 2011-12? Provide details of each advertising, 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 Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

Answer:

- a. As at November 2011, advertising costs (branding media i.e. posters and printing) were \$9,709.
- b. Not applicable.
- c. Not applicable.
- d. Not applicable.
- e. As part of the agreements with Telstra, NBN Co will undertake public education activities to ensure people are fully prepared for the migration to the NBN. Other possible information activities are still the subject of discussion.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 555

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the Agency's hospitality spend for the year 2010-11?
- b. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

Please see answer to Question on Notice 525

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 556

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the Agency's entertainment spend for the year 2010-11?
- b. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

Please see answer to Question on Notice 525

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 557

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What hospitality spend is the Agency's planning on spending?
- b. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

Please see Question on Notice 558.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 558

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What entertainment spend is the Agency's planning on spending?
- b. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

NBN Co does not have any planned hospitality/entertainment spend at this stage.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 559

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Has the Agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b. How many FOI requests has the Agency 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 Agency received for this 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. Advice has been provided at a general level by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.
- b. Please see Question on Notice 534.
- c. and e. The *Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Act 2009* commenced on 7 October 2009. The Act repealed the power to issue conclusive certificates in the FOI Act and the *Archives Act 1983*.
- d. Please see Question on Notice 534.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 560

Program No. NBN Co Limited

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 Agency 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. \$152,034 was spent in financial year 2010-11.
- b. The services are provided by Media Monitors.
- c. Estimate for 2011-12 is similar to (a) above.
- d. Approximately \$46,186 has been spent FYTD.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 561

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Social Media

Senator Fisher asked:

Has there been any changes to 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 2011? Please explain.

Answer:

No

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 562

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Contractors

Senator Fisher asked:

Since May 2011:

1. Has the agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.
2. Has the agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details.
3. Has the 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.
4. Has the agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.
5. Has the agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.
6. Has the agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.
7. Has the agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.
8. Has the agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.
9. Has the agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

1. No.
2. No.
3. Yes, John Utting & UMR Research Group was engaged in November 2011 to provide research services.
4. Yes, McCann-Erickson was retained in January 2012 to provide media services.
5. No.
6. No.
7. No.
8. No.
9. No.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 563

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. For the year 2010-11, did the agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)
- b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, was interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- c. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

- a. NBN Co is not subject to the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (CPGs). NBN Co does, however, apply the principles of the CPGs when dealing with its suppliers. NBN Co's standard payment terms are 30 Days End of Month. Accounts are paid in accordance with these terms except where it is found that the supplier has not delivered all of the required deliverables in accordance with their Statement of Work.
- b. No interest is or has been paid by the Company.
- c. Not applicable.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 564

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. For the FYTD, has the agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)
- b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- c. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

Please see answer to Question on Notice 563.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 565

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government stationery requirements

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

Not applicable to NBN Co.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 566

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Does the agency 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. & b. Yes. NBN Co has a business information package from Foxtel, which helps staff stay informed of relevant public affairs and events.
- c. For 2010-11 the average cost was \$1,342 per month for services across all our offices.
- d. We estimate a similar cost for 2011-12.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 567

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Does the agency 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. Yes
- b. The subscriptions are to ensure the company can track relevant public developments, business news and industry commentary. NBN Co has subscriptions for the Sydney Morning Herald, Age, Australian, Australian Financial Review and Herald Sun newspapers.
- c. The total annual cost for 2010-11 was \$15,944 across all our offices.
- d. The estimated cost for 2011-12 is similar to (c) above.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 568

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Does the agency 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-d. Subscriptions of this type are authorised at the team/section level for business-related purposes. Specific details around cost and types of magazines across the company are not recorded centrally. NBN Co is therefore not in a position to provide the information requested.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 569

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of the agency within the portfolio. 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.

Answer:

The total spent on travel by NBN Co for FY2010-11 was; airfares \$3.42m, accommodation charges \$1.12m, and meal costs \$0.34m.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 570

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

For the year FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of the agency within the portfolio. 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.

Answer:

Total travel expenses (Domestic and International) incurred from 1 July 2011 to 31 October 2011 amounted to \$3,329,521.

All travel is approved in accordance with NBN Co's Travel Policy prior to the travel being undertaken, and estimates of trip costs must be made at the time of the request.

Obtaining other details, such as the purpose of the travel for each trip, would be a time consuming task and not an efficient use of NBN Co's resources.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 571

Program No.

Hansard Ref: Written

Topic: Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What sum did each portfolio agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 within the agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b. What sum did each portfolio agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c. What sum did each portfolio agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- d. What sum did each portfolio agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

- a. For FY2010-11 total fees paid to law firms for all legal and regulatory support/services was \$35.64 million.
- b. Nil.
- c. Refer answer to a.
- d. Refer answer to a.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 572

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What sum did each portfolio agency spend on legal services FYTD within the agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b. What sum did each portfolio agency spend on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c. What sum did each portfolio agency spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- d. What sum did each portfolio agency spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

For the five months to end of November 2011, total fees to law firms for all legal and regulatory support/services was \$11.44 million (July 2011- Nov 2011).

Breaking down the information in the detail requested would be a time consuming task and not an efficient use of NBN Co's resources.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 573

Program No. NBN Co Limited

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:

NBN Co's training & development costs for financial year 2010-11 were \$2.78 million. The further detailed breakdown as requested is not recorded in a way that would readily allow responses to be provided. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of company resources.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 574

Program No. NBN Co Limited

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:

NBN Co's training and development costs for 2011-12 (to 30 November) were \$2.27 million. The further detailed breakdown as requested is not recorded in a way that would readily allow responses to be provided. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of company resources.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 575

Program No. NBN Co Limited

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 each portfolio agency, 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

Any costs the agency incurred to use the location

Answer:

Please see answer to Question on Notice 573

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 576

Program No. NBN Co Limited

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 each portfolio agency, 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

Any costs the agency incurred to use the location

Answer:

Please see answer to Question on Notice 574

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 577

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Please list how many staff in the agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
- b. For the year 2010-11 list which portfolio agencies 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:

See answer to Question on Notice 578.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 578

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator Fisher asked:

For the FYTD list which portfolio agencies 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:

Staff accessing the paid parental leave scheme is a private matter for them and the Family Assistance Office.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 579

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Corporate Cars

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many cars are owned by the agency 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:

NBN Co does not own any vehicles.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 580

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi costs

Senator Fisher asked:

How much did the agency spend on taxis in 2010-11? Provide a breakdown of each business group in the agency.

Answer:

NBN Co's accounts system combines taxi and train expenditure and does not break down by business group. In 2010-11 the agency spend was \$0.91m.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 581

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Credit Cards

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many staff in the agency have a corporate credit card? What is their classification?
- b. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
- c. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
- d. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
- e. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
- f. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

- a. As at 28 November 2011, there were 144 holders of a corporate credit card. Generally senior managers at general manager level and above are issued with credit cards. Cards are also issued to other staff depending on their circumstances, such as frequent travellers. Eligibility for a corporate credit card is governed by NBN Co Corporate Credit Card Policy (“the Policy”).
- b. Per the Policy, employees may be subject to disciplinary action if they misuse the card.
- c. Corporate credit cards are issued by American Express (“AMEX”). The cards are “limited liability” cards meaning that employees must pay the balances of the cards themselves and seek reimbursement of business expenses from the company. AMEX issues monthly reports to NBN Co of all credit card use. NBN Co can also access card account details online at any time.
- d. See b.
- e. There have been no instances of misuse detected.
- f. The Policy sets out the use of the card. Integral to the Policy, employees are also subject to the Travel & Expense Reimbursement Policy. Business expenses incurred on a card are reported on an Expense Claim Report, which is approved by a cardholder’s manager. Expense Claim Reports are then double checked by Accounts Payable for compliance with relevant policies before payment is made.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 582

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Carbon Price Legislation

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

- a. NBN Co was not consulted.
- b. NBN Co is not in a position to comment on Government policy.

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
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 583

Program No.NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Communications

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

NBN Co has a Chief Communications Officer with 27 employees reporting either directly or indirectly to him. The roles in this area are diverse and include government liaison, stakeholder relations, community engagement, media relations, issues management and staffing for demonstration facilities.

NBN Co is a Government Business Enterprise and as such does not provide communications services directly to Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries.