

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
Special Broadcasting Service Corporation

Question No: 1

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Pages 4-5

Topic: Quality Control on Ads

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: There used to be some quality control and now we have anything—Harvey Norman screaming at us at random intervals. The station used to exercise quality control. When did that drop?

Mr Ebeid: I am not sure I could tell you that. I think we have always had the same quality controls on our ads. You have probably just seen an increase in some different advertisers.

Mr Meagher: I am certainly not aware of any policy change in relation to that. There has been a discretion. There are certain products. For example, we will not advertise the 1800 sex lines and various things like that. In terms of retail advertisers and the like, I do not think we have ever explicitly said that we would or would not take particular people. It is more a case of what the market throws up.

Senator LUDLAM: That is interesting. That is not what I was aware of.

Mr Meagher: I can double-check whether there was a policy prior to my time, but that was five years ago.

Answer:

SBS will not broadcast advertisements that do not have a Classification Number (CAD Number) issued by Free TV Australia's commercial advice service. All advertisements are required to comply with various advertising industry codes.

The SBS Codes of Practice state: 'All decisions regarding commercial revenue are subject to the overriding principle that the integrity of the SBS Charter and SBS's editorial independence are paramount and shall not be compromised in any way. As with all programming, SBS reserves the exclusive right to determine what is broadcast on SBS services' (Code 5).

SBS's internal editorial guidelines provide that: "SBS retains the right to refuse to broadcast any advertisement or sponsorship announcement which fails to meet its quality standards". This provision relates to technical quality.

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Question No: 2

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Question on Notice 62

Senator Birmingham asked:

I refer to Question on notice 62 from 2011 Budget Estimates. Can you provide details of all sites where the ABC and at least two commercial broadcasting services are likely to be available as digital terrestrial services, but SBS will not.

- a. How much would it cost to provide a terrestrial SBS service in these locations?
- b. What is the expected cost of VAST Satellite Subsidies in these locations?

Answer:

The Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) has identified the following sites where the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and at least two commercial broadcasting services are currently likely to be available as digital terrestrial services, but SBS will not be. This list may change as a result of decisions made by the industry.

State	Area Served	Market Area	Switchover Date/Window
1. NSW	Bonalbo	Richmond/Tweed	2 nd half 2012
2. NSW	Cassilis	Hunter	2 nd half 2012
3. NSW	Cooma/Monaro	ACT & Southern Tablelands	1 st half 2012
4. NSW	Kyogle	Richmond/Tweed	2 nd half 2012
5. NSW	Murrurundi	North West Slopes and Plains	2 nd half 2012
6. NSW	Nyngan	Central Tablelands & Central Western Slopes	1 st half 2012
7. NSW	Walcha	North West Slopes and Plains	2 nd half 2012
8. NSW	Walgett	Remote Central & Eastern Australia	2 nd half 2013
9. NSW	Wilcannia	Remote Central & Eastern Australia	2 nd half 2013
10. QLD	Miles	Darling Downs	6 December 2011
11. QLD	Mitchell	Remote Central & Eastern Australia	2 nd half 2013
12. QLD	Murgon	Darling Downs	6 December 2011
13. QLD	Tara	Darling Downs	6 December 2011
14. SA	Bordertown	Mt Gambier/South East	Switched 15 Dec 2010
15. SA	Coffin Bay	Spencer Gulf	Switched 15 Dec 2010
16. SA	Keith	Mt Gambier/South East	Switched 15 Dec 2010
17. SA	Lameroo	Riverland	Switched 15 Dec 2010
18. SA	Pinnaroo	Riverland	Switched 15 Dec 2010
19. TAS	Bicheno	Tasmania	1 st half 2013
20. TAS	Binalong Bay	Tasmania	1 st half 2013
21. TAS	King Island	Tasmania	1 st half 2013
22. TAS	Rosebery	Tasmania	1 st half 2013

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23. TAS	Savage River	Tasmania	1 st half 2013
24. TAS	St Marys	Tasmania	1 st half 2013
25. TAS	Strahan	Tasmania	1 st half 2013
26. TAS	Strathgordon	Tasmania	1 st half 2013
27. TAS	Swansea	Tasmania	1 st half 2013
28. TAS	Waratah	Tasmania	1 st half 2013
29. VIC	Corryong	Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray	Switched 5 May 2011
30. WA	Augusta	Regional & Remote Western Australia	2 nd half 2013
31. WA	Kalbarri	Regional & Remote Western Australia	2 nd half 2013
32. WA	Koolyanobbing	Regional & Remote Western Australia	2 nd half 2013
33. WA	Nannup	Regional & Remote Western Australia	2 nd half 2013

- a. It is not possible to accurately estimate the cost of extending the SBS digital television service to all of these areas without knowing the final intentions of the other broadcasters.
- b. None of these locations is eligible for assistance under the Satellite Subsidy Scheme to access the Viewer Access Satellite Television service.

SBS and ABC self-help analog television conversions

There are a number of sites where SBS and the ABC are the only analog television services provided on a self-help basis and where the commercial broadcasters are (or are expected) to provide digital terrestrial television services. Given this, the Australian Government has provided funding for the conversion of relevant ABC and SBS self-help services in order to ensure that the full suite of the digital television services is available terrestrially from those sites.

The Government provided funding to SBS in the 2010-11 Budget to convert an initial seven SBS self-help services. Further funding was provided to SBS and ABC in the 2011-12 Budget to convert 59 ABC and SBS analog self-help television services to digital at relevant sites – 57 of these services are to be run on a self-help basis once converted and two ABC services (Mandurah (WA) and Tieri (QLD)) are to be run by the ABC once converted due to the larger than normal populations served by these analog self-help services.

For the services to be operated on a self-help basis once converted, the Budget commitments also include a limited amount of funding toward meeting the ongoing costs associated with operating transmitters for a period of ten years following conversion.

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The ABC and SBS are responsible for implementing these measures. A service provider might provide a quote to convert and operate the self-help digital television service in which case the community may not need to contribute financially to the operation of the service. Alternatively, the community group that currently operates the analog self-help service would need to commit to providing a financial contribution toward the operation of the service, over and above the financial assistance provided through the Budget Measures.

The amount of funding appropriated cannot be disclosed because contracts with regard to the conversion of all of these services have not been finalised.

Availability of SBS terrestrial television services

The SBS analog television network has been extended to regional transmission areas with a population of 3000 people or more. SBS managed these extensions, which were carried out in three stages - the first stage involved 88 extensions to regional transmission areas with a minimum of 10 000 people, the second stage involved 22 extensions to areas with a minimum of 5000 people and the third stage involved 22 extensions to areas with populations between 3000 and 5000. The population data for the “3000-5000” extensions was provided by SBS in late 2004/early 2005. As a result of these extensions, SBS more than doubled the total number of analog television services it transmitted before the commencement of this initiative, from 123 services in 2000 to over 250 services by around mid-2008. SBS is obliged provide its digital television service to the transmission areas where it provides an analog television service.

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Question No: 3

Program No. SBS

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. 16.
- b. SBS Band 1 – 1;
SBS Band 2 – 2;
SBS Band 3 – 5;
SBS Band 4 – 3;
SBS Band 5 – 1;
SBS Band 6 – 2;
SBS Band 7 – 2.
- c. 37.
- d. Four. Two years.

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: 4

Program No. SBS

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. 45.
- b. SBS Band 1 – 2;
SBS Band 2 – 8;
SBS Band 3 – 16;
SBS Band 4 – 5;
SBS Band 5 – 6;
SBS Band 6 – 4;
SBS Band 7 – 4.
- c. 80.
- d. 22. Two and half years.

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: 5

Program No. SBS

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:

SBS plans to operate as efficiently as possible.

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Question No: 6

Program No. SBS

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:

SBS is not subject to the efficiency dividend.

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Question No: 7

Program No. SBS

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 – e Not applicable.

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Question No: 8

Program No. SBS

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:

- a. & b. SBS spent \$177,860 on a variety of events during the year 2010-11. This was across the whole year over a number of events including our 30th anniversary function, our Parliamentary Showcase, our season launch, the launch of Series 3 of East West 101, the launch of the Chinese Virtual Community Centre, and the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

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Question No: 9

Program No. SBS

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 refer to the answer to Question on Notice. 8.

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Question No: 10

Program No. SBS

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:

SBS plans on only a modest amount of spending.

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Question No: 11

Program No. SBS

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:

Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice. 10.

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Question No: 12

Program No. SBS

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. 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 the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided FOI Guidance Notes to all departments on 28 July 2011 – http://dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance_notes.cfm
- b. Nil.
- c. Not applicable.
- d. Not applicable.
- e. Not applicable.

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Question No: 13

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Monitoring

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the 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. \$148,081.
- b. Media Monitors; Media Link (Community Relations Commission).
- c. SBS estimates it will spend around the same amount in 2011-12 that it spent in 2010-11.
- d. \$24,684.

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Question No: 14

Program No. SBS

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:

SBS recently refreshed its Social Media Protocol. The Protocol clarifies employee responsibilities when using social media. SBS's Social Media Protocol is available on its website.

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Question No: 15

Program No. SBS

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:

1-9 No.

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Question No: 16

Program No. SBS

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

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Question No: 17

Program No. SBS

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 response to Question on Notice. 16.

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Question No: 18

Program No. SBS

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.

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Question No: 19

Program No. SBS

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 – d. 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) at a cost of \$844 per month.

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Question No: 20

Program No. SBS

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. SBS purchases newspapers and magazines in order to keep abreast of local and international industry developments and news and current affairs coverage.
- c. \$102,264.
- d. We anticipate a similar expenditure as the previous year.

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Question No: 21

Program No. SBS

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:

Please see the response to Question on Notice 20.

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Question No: 22

Program No. SBS

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 each agency within each 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 expenditure on travel undertaken by employees during the year 2010-11 was \$2.7 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. 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.

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Question No: 23

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

For the year FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each 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 expenditure on travel undertaken by employees for the FYTD is \$521,371. 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. 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.

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Question No: 24

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal 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. The internal cost of running SBS's legal department was \$989,760 (excl. GST). To provide a list of services and costs would be a very onerous task that would involve significant resources.
- b. Nil.
- c. \$364,948 (excl. GST). Unable to provide a list of services and costs as this information is commercial-in-confidence.
- d. Nil.

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Question No: 25

Program No. SBS

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:

- a. The internal cost of running SBS's legal department FYTD is \$286,847 (excl. GST). To provide a list of services and costs would be a very onerous task that would involve significant resources.
- b. \$1,380 (excl. GST).
- c. \$37,375 (excl. GST). Unable to provide a list of services and costs as this information is commercial-in-confidence.
- d. Nil.

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Question No: 26

Program No. SBS

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:

Total costs for 2010-11 were \$309,552.

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Question No: 27

Program No. SBS

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:

Total training costs for the FYTD are \$17,500.

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Question No: 28

Program No. SBS

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
- iv. Any costs the agency incurred to use the location

Answer:

Total costs for the year were \$58,338.

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Question No: 29

Program No. SBS

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 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
- iv. Any costs the agency incurred to use the location

Answer:

Total costs for the FYTD are \$9,950.

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Question No: 30

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Please list how many staff in each portfolio 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:

- a. 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.
- b. Nil.

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Question No: 31

Program No. SBS

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:

This is a private matter between staff who access the scheme and the Family Assistance Office.

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Question No: 32

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Corporate Cars

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How [many] cars are owned by each 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:

(a) Nil.

(b)-(e) Not applicable.

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Question No: 33

Program No. SBS

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 each agency.

Answer:

Total expenditure on taxis during 2010-11 was: News and Current Affairs – \$230,686; Television and Online Content – \$115,303; Audio and Language Content – \$71,879; Sales – \$65,536; Corporate – \$51,484; Marketing – \$44,537; Technology and Distribution – \$33,426.

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Question No: 34

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Credit Cards

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many staff in each 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. 42. Credit cards are issued to staff on the basis of business/operational needs as determined by Division heads.
- b. 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.
- c. Credit card statements are acquitted and approved by the relevant financial delegate on a monthly basis.
- d. Please refer to answer under (b).
- e. No. Not applicable.
- f. 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: 35

Program No. SBS

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. Not applicable.
- b. Not applicable.

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Question No: 36

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Communications

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

SBS does not employ staff for the purposes of providing services to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries.

SBS has a small Corporate Communications team responsible for corporate external relations consisting of the Director of Strategy and Communications and the Corporate Communications Manager.