

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 10

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
 - b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
2. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
3. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
4. What publications does your department/agency purchase?
 - a. Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?

Answer:

1. The Department subscribes to one pay TV service – Foxtel.
 - a. The channels subscribed to are: APAC, Sky News, Sky Business and CNN. The Department subscribes to these channels in order to keep apprised of national and international news, interview, and commentary on issues relevant to the Department's achievement of its core functions.
 - b. The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources to rectify. Total expenses on these subscriptions from 1 September – 31 October 2013 was \$1,424.67 (GST excl).
 - c. There are no TV subscription services provided to the Minister or their office.
 - d. n/a.

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2. The Department subscribes to eight newspapers, both in online and non-online formats.
 - a. These are: The Sydney Morning Herald, The Financial Times, The Canberra Times, The Australian, The Australian Financial Review, The Herald Sun, The Age and The Daily Telegraph. The Department subscribes to these newspapers in order to keep apprised of issues raised in the media that are relevant to the Department's achievement of its core functions.
 - b. Total expenses for online newspaper subscriptions from 1 September – 31 October 2013 were \$996.53 (GST excl). Total expenses for non-online newspaper subscriptions for this financial year from 1 September – 31 October 2013 was \$2,569.16 (GST excl).
 - c. There are a number of online newspaper subscription services provided to the Minister or their office.
 - d. Total expenses of \$112.74 (GST excl) included at (b) above were incurred.

3. The Department subscribes to a range of magazines, both in online and non-online formats.
 - a. The finance systems do not allow for this level of detail of all magazines purchased.
 - b. Total expenses for online magazine subscriptions from 1 September – 31 October 2013 was \$6,325.76 (GST excl). Total expenses for non-online magazine subscriptions for this financial year from 1 September – 31 October 2013 was \$10,482.66 (GST excl).
 - c. There are no magazine subscription services provided to the Minister or their office.
 - d. n/a.

4. The Department purchases a range of publications and journals in order to keep apprised of developments across all facets of the industry that are relevant to the Department's achievement of its core functions.
 - a. The finance systems do not allow for this level of detail of all publications purchased.
 - b. Total expenses for online publications from 1 September – 31 October 2013 was \$19,642.18 (GST excl). Total expenses for non-online publications from 1 September – 31 October 2013 was \$9,884.71 (GST excl).
 - c. There is an online publication provided to the Minister or their office.
 - d. Total expenses of \$2,986.98 (GST excl) included in (b) above were incurred.