

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: 11&12

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Monitoring, Minister's Office and Department

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - b. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2013-14?
 - c. What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?
2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - b. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2013-14?
 - c. What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?

Answer:

1. The Department has one media monitoring contract for these services, which includes the Minister's office and these expenses cannot be split. 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.
 - a. Media Monitoring Services are provided by iSentia Pty Ltd.
 - b. The estimated budget to provide media monitoring services to the Department for the financial year 2013-14 is \$312,962.40 (GST exclusive).
 - c. The total expenses of media monitoring services provided to the Department from 1 September – 31 October 2013 is \$68,147.14 (GST excl).
2. Please see the response above.