

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 130**

**Program No. ABC**

**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 pay TV 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?
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. Foxtel is the ABC's main pay TV service provider.
  - a) The package includes access to the following channels:
    - Sports channels
    - News channels
    - Documentaries
    - Music
    - Kids and Family
    - Entertainment

In addition, there are some ABC subscriptions to Disney and Racing Channels through Foxtel.

The ABC subscribes to pay TV for a number of reasons including:

- Monitoring of other sources of News such as CNN and BBC Worlds News for breaking stories and updates

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- Provision of international Sports results
  - Reviewing programming that might be suitable for the ABC to acquire
  - Keeping up to date on emerging bands and worldwide music trends.
- b) Expenditure for Pay TV subscriptions from 1 September 2013 to 30 November 2013 was \$52,000.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.
2. The ABC subscribes to newspapers that directly relate to business needs, particularly given one of the ABC's core activities relates to news.
- a) As most newspapers are supplied through newsagents and paid for with procurement card, it is not possible to list all publications received, but they would include all the main news publications.
- b) Expenditure on magazines and newspapers from 1 September 2013 to 30 November 2013 was \$207,000.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.
- 3.
- a) The ABC subscribes to magazines which relate to business needs
- b) Costs are logged with newspaper purchases and it is not possible to split these costs given the high volume of low value transactions, mostly paid for with a procurement card. Refer to answer to 2(b) above.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.
4. The ABC does not separately log the purchase of publications. Costs are logged with newspaper purchases and it is not possible to split these costs given the high volume of low value transactions, mostly paid for by a procurement card.
- a) As most publications are supplied through newsagents and paid for with procurement card, it is not possible to list all publications received, but they would include all the main news publications.
- b) Costs of publications are logged under 'magazines and newspapers'. Refer to answer 2(b) above.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.