

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: 16

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Senator Ludwig asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.

Answer:

Yes. SES officers, and other approved staff, are generally provided with a mobile phone or smartphone, and a device for remote access to the Department's network. The purchase price for equipment for Department staff falls into the range of:

- i. Mobile handset (either phone or PDA): \$500 - \$1,026
- ii. Portable device (either laptop or iPad): \$800 - \$2,000
- iii. Wireless card: \$220

Communication expenses reported from the Department's financial management system includes expenses on items such as: smartphones, portable devices, wireless cards, broadband, fax machines, land lines, mobile phones etc. To attempt to provide disaggregated data would involve an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.