

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS QUESTION
(Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 October – 21 October)

Question: SBT 109

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Bushby asked:

1. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
2. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
3. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.

Answer:

This response is limited to the ATO and does not include information relating to the broader Treasury portfolio.

1. The ATO does not subscribe to pay TV. The ATO does subscribe to the Parliamentary Network. The cost for 2010-11 is \$6,343.83.
2. The ATO subscribes to a range of local, regional and national newspapers and magazines like the Harvard Business Review and Taxation in Australia. These subscriptions ensure management and staff are up to date with current affairs, both in Australia and internationally. The ATO's financial management information system does not separately identify these costs so it is not possible to easily quantify the cost of newspaper subscriptions.
3. The ATO subscribes to a range of hard copy and on-line magazines and journals. These subscriptions are primarily business and/or industry focussed. The ATO's financial management information system does not separately identify these costs so it is not possible to easily quantify the cost of magazines.