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

Question: SBT 134

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Bushby asked:

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.

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.

Answer:

1. The ACCC has five subscriptions to Foxtel in two of its offices (Canberra and Melbourne) at a total cost of $308 per month. Both are Business Information and Sports subscriptions—this is the lowest priced business package that provides the full range of news channels offered by Foxtel. The package also includes the basic channels offered by Foxtel and a number of sports channels. Access to news channels is essential for ACCC staff to be quickly aware of issues which may have a bearing on the ACCC's work, and also to monitor coverage of ACCC media activity.

2. The ACCC has offices located throughout Australia, with a national office in Canberra and regional offices located in each State and Territory capital city and Townsville. As a result, the ACCC subscribes to a variety of national and local newspapers. In 2009-10 the cost associated with newspapers for the ACCC was $56,032.31. Newspaper subscriptions allow ACCC staff to be quickly aware of issues which may have a bearing on the ACCC's work, and also to monitor coverage of ACCC media activity.

3. The ACCC has two subscriptions to *The Economist* (at a cost of $949.58 p.a.), three subscriptions to *BRW* (at a cost of $1144.80 p.a.) and one subscription to *Choice Magazine* (at a cost of $192.28 p.a.). These subscriptions allow ACCC staff to be aware of broader issues which may have bearing on the ACCC's work.