

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EM0208_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - Media Subscriptions

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have? a) Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel. 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 for this 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 for this 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 for this 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 for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

Answer

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have? a) Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel. 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 for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

Comcare does not pay for TV subscriptions.

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 for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

a) Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.

Comcare subscribes to the following newspapers:

- Fairfax newspapers
- The Australian
- Australian Financial Review
- Advertiser Newspaper
- The Courier Mail

- The West Australian
- Sydney Morning Herald
- Canberra Times
- Herald Sun
- The Age
- Lloyd's List Australian

The reasons Comcare subscribes to the above newspaper subscriptions are:

- to supply information relevant to Comcare's jurisdiction and operating environment;
- to be placed in office foyers/receptions and break out rooms for use by visitors and staff.

b) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?

The total cost of the above newspaper subscriptions from 7 September 2013 to date is approximately \$5819.

c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?

None of the above newspapers are provided to the Minister or his Office.

d) What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

Not applicable.

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 for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

a) Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.

Comcare subscribes to the following magazine:

- Crikey

The reason Comcare subscribes to the above magazine subscription is:

- to supply information relevant to Comcare's jurisdiction and operating environment;

b) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?

The total cost of the above magazine subscription from 7 September 2013 to date is approximately \$127.

c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?

The magazine above is not provided to the Minister or his Office.

d) What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

Not applicable.

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 for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

a) Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.

Comcare subscribes to the following publications:

- The online *Annotated Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act)
- The Medical Disability Advisor
- The Official Disability Guide
- LexisNexis Butts Direct Online
- Australian Privacy Law Handbook Online
- SoftLaw

The reasons Comcare subscribes to the above publications are:

- Provide Comcare staff with easy access to key Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Court decisions, legislative change history and a 'Practitioners Guide' including notices of SRC Act declarations and Ministerial Directions.
- Provide information on work related medical conditions including diagnostic criteria, treatment, expected length of disability and return to work considerations.
- Tools to assist in better decision making particularly in relation to duration of incapacity and return to work.
- Occasional trials of alternative publications to identify potential alternatives that provide better value
- Provide Comcare's legal employees with access to the most up to date research and precedent legal information to enable them to fulfil their duties as Legal Advisers.
- Tools to assist Comcare staff who provide policy advice.

b) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?

The total cost of the above publications subscriptions from 7 September 2013 to date is approximately \$22 215.

c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?

None of the above publications are provided to the Minister or his Office.

d) What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

Not applicable.