

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0688\_13**

**Senator Abetz asked on 18 October 2012, Hansard page 4**

**Question**

***Media Monitoring Services***

With such a huge bill, what the extra cost would be to the Australian taxpayer if a humble, underfunded opposition spokesman were to get the benefit of this media monitoring service? Ms Paul: We have canvassed this before. Senator ABETZ: Yes. Ms Paul: You are asking about the extra cost. I do not know what the extra cost would be. I would have to take that on notice. CHAIR: I want to know who the humble shadow spokesperson is. Senator ABETZ: You are looking at him. It seems to be a matter of personal disposition of the minister or ministers in the portfolio. I remember when I was a minister I was happy to share, but I understand that certain others do not and that it is an issue of the certain disposition of the minister. But if there is no extra cost to the taxpayer then, of course, the issue is one of, if I might describe it as such, bloody mindedness, of not being willing to share with the opposition something which would not cost the taxpayer any extra dollars. Can you confirm, Secretary, that there would be no extra cost to the taxpayer if one lot of this media monitoring was made available to the opposition? Can you confirm that it would not incur an extra cost to the taxpayer? Ms Paul: I do not know that, but we have taken that on notice.

**Answer**

To add another person on to the list to receive and use the AAP Newscentre media monitoring service would not incur an extra cost to the department.

It has been the practice that the Opposition is not provided with copies of the press clippings for this portfolio.