

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 101

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 3

Question:

1. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)?
 - a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
 - b. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?
 - c. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

2. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers?
 - a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
 - b. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?
 - c. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

3. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines?
 - a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
 - b. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?
 - c. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

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Answer:

The response only refers to information relating to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). Newspapers and magazine costs are reported against the same general ledger item therefore costs are combined in the response to Questions 2 and 3. To attempt to separate these costs would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

1. Yes, Foxtel.
 - a. The subscription provides access to breaking news on local and global issues relevant to the execution of the departmental officers' advisory role. The cost is \$1,133 per month. Channels subscribed to are:
 - CNN
 - Sky News
 - BBC World News
 - b. The estimated cost for 2011-12 is \$13,596.
 - c. The cost for this financial year to date is \$7,931.
2. The department subscribes to a range of newspapers.
 - a. The department provides the newspapers to support departmental officers in the execution of their advisory role. The cost of newspapers and magazines is \$8,604 per month. The newspapers subscribed to are:
 - The Age
 - The Australian
 - The Australian Financial Review
 - The Canberra Times
 - The Daily Telegraph
 - The Financial Times
 - The Financial Times Saturday
 - The Melbourne Herald Sun
 - The Sydney Morning Herald
 - The Weekend Australian

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- b. The estimated cost for 2011-12 for newspapers and magazines is \$103,252.
 - c. The cost for this financial year to date for newspapers and magazines is \$60,228.
3. The Department subscribes to a variety of local and international magazines.
- a. The subscriptions provide access to topical articles relevant to the execution of departmental officers' advisory role. The cost is included in the response to Question 2a. The magazines subscribed to are:
 - Business Review Weekly: BRW
 - The Economist
 - Foreign Affairs
 - The Monthly: Australian Politics, Society & Culture
 - New Scientist
 - Quadrant
 - Time Australia
 - b. The total cost for 2010-11 is included in the answer to 2b.
 - c. The estimated cost for 2011-12 is included in the answer to 2c.