

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Portfolio**

**Question No. 115**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:**

Provision of equipment

- a) For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?
- b) For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date?
- c) Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.
- d) Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

1. The Attorney-General's Department provides various mobile phone devices (including BlackBerry devices) to Ministers and their staff as required. The type of device provided is dependent on a number of factors including availability at the time of purchase and the business requirements of the user (eg mobile phone only or mobile phone and data/emails etc). The average purchase price of a new BlackBerry device is approximately \$500 each.

The following Blackberry devices are currently in use within AGD:

- BlackBerry 8800
- BlackBerry 9000
- BlackBerry 9700
- BlackBerry 9780
- BlackBerry 9790
- BlackBerry 9800

2. Ongoing costs for electronic equipment provided to Ministers and their offices for this financial year to date include the following (all figures are GST exclusive):
  - \$69,515 – Mobile phone communication expenses (mobile phones and BlackBerrys)
  - \$17,693 – Data communication expenses (wireless internet, tablet devices etc)

- \$22,000 – BlackBerry support-related expenses

3. The Attorney-General's Department provides the following electronic equipment to staff as required to assist them with carrying out their duties:

- Laptop
- Citrix remote access token
- Wireless internet dongle
- BlackBerry device
- Mobile phone
- iPad
- iPhone
- Bluetooth headset
- Bluetooth car kit
- USB storage device

It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to calculate the purchase and ongoing costs, and the breakdown of the staff and classification of staff that are provided electronic items.

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