

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

Portfolio

Question No. 126

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

1. Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?

2. Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?

3. Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?

4. What was the 2011-12 cost for:
 - a) TV subscriptions
 - b) Newspaper subscriptions
 - c) Magazine subscriptions

5. Does the department/agency provide any media subscriptions to its Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries? If yes, provide details of what is provided and the cost this financial year to date and for 2011-12.

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

Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) is a government business enterprise operating on a commercial and competitive basis in providing legal and related services to government and its agencies. AGS does not receive any Budget or other appropriations and its employees are engaged outside of the *Public Service Act 1999*. The question is therefore not applicable to AGS.

Please see table below for all other responses

1. a)-b) Pay TV subscriptions

Agency	Description of changes to Pay TV subscriptions since 24 May 2012, including any new prices	Total cost of Pay TV subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012)
Attorney-General's Department	NIL	\$3,922
Australian Crime Commission	NIL	\$ 526
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	N/A	\$1,439.13
Australian Federal Police	No	\$43,813
Australian Human Rights Commission	N/A	\$633
Australian Institute of Criminology	N/A	N/A
Australian Security Intelligence Office	N/A	\$14,303
Australian Law Reform Commission	No	NIL
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	N/A	N/A
CrimTrac	NIL	\$1,556.76
Family Court of Australia	Yes. The Court replaced 1 x Transact account with 2 x Foxtel accounts. Foxtel provided the Court with more comprehensive news and parliamentary channels. Business information & Sport Package \$154 (GST Ex).	\$594 (GST Exclusive).
Federal Court of Australia	No change	NIL
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	NIL	
National Native Title Tribunal	Please note: From 1 July 2012 the National Native Title Tribunal is no longer a <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i> Agency, and is funded to carry out its functions as a sub-program of the Federal Court of Australia's appropriation. For question 1-3, please refer to the Federal Court's response	For question 1-3, please refer to the Federal Court's response
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	Pay TV subscription has been cancelled	\$95.00

2. a)-b) Newspaper subscriptions

Agency	Description of changes to newspaper subscriptions since 24 May 2012, including any new prices	Total cost of newspaper subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012)
Attorney-General's Department	NIL	\$11,819.15
Australian Crime Commission	<p>Yes, ACC Offices have been limited to fewer newspapers per office for cost saving purposes.</p> <p>Adelaide Adelaide Advertiser – daily Australian – daily and one Weekend Australian per week</p> <p>Brisbane Courier Mail – daily Australian – daily</p> <p>Melbourne Herald Sun (2 copies) – daily The Age - daily</p> <p>Perth Western Australian – daily Australian – daily</p> <p>ACT Australian – daily Canberra Times – daily Financial Review – daily</p> <p>Alice Springs, Darwin, Sydney Nil</p>	\$ 2,296
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	Internal decision to review subscription services and discontinue subscriptions where possible. A list of specific newspaper subscriptions that have been discontinued is not readily available.	\$7,287.89
Australian Federal Police	NIL	\$14,866
Australian Human Rights Commission	N/A	\$2,386
Australian Institute of Criminology	NIL	\$329

Australian Security Intelligence Office	N/A	\$10,305
Australian Law Reform Commission	NIL	\$176.73
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	N/A	\$5,910.80
CrimTrac	NIL	\$435.46
Family Court of Australia	No change to newspaper subscriptions since the 2012-13 budget estimates	Accounting for Newspaper, Magazines and Media Monitor expenses are combined. The court is unable to distinguish between the expenses without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The year to date cost (30 September 2012) is \$12,061 (GST Exclusive).
Federal Court of Australia	The Court has additional newspaper and magazine subscriptions due to the NNTT becoming a sub-program of the Court from 1 July 2012.	\$21,316 for newspapers and magazines
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	No change to newspaper subscriptions since the 2012-13 budget estimates	Accounting for Newspaper, Magazines and Media Monitor expenses are combined. The court is unable to distinguish between the expenses without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The year to date cost (30 September 2012) is \$5,785 (GST Exclusive).
National Native Title Tribunal	For question 1-3, please refer to the Federal Court's response	
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	NIL	\$127.00

3. a)-b) Magazine subscriptions

Agency	Description of changes to magazine subscriptions since 24 May 2012, including any new prices	Total cost of magazine subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012)
Attorney-General's Department	Magazine subscription costs have dropped significantly due to cancellations.	\$1,021.64

Australian Crime Commission	Yes. Four subscriptions to magazines to assist investigations.	\$113.00
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	Internal decision to review and discontinue technical magazine subscription services where possible. A list of specific newspaper subscriptions that have been discontinued is not readily available.	\$19,533.50
Australian Federal Police	NIL	\$15,926 including professional journals and business magazine subscriptions.
Australian Human Rights Commission	N/A	N/A
Australian Institute of Criminology	N/A	N/A
Australian Security Intelligence Office	N/A	\$3,611
Australian Law Reform Commission	NIL	NIL
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	N/A	N/A
CrimTrac	NIL	NIL
Family Court of Australia	No change to magazine subscriptions since the 2012-13 budget estimates	b) see point 2(b) above.
Federal Court of Australia	NIL	\$83,432 for newspapers and magazines
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	No change to magazine subscriptions since the 2012-13 budget estimates	b) see point 2(c) above.
National Native Title Tribunal		For question 1-3, please refer to the Federal Court's response
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	NIL	N/A

4. a)-c) Total costs for the 2011-12 financial year (1 July 2011 to 30 July 2012)

Agency	Pay TV subscription costs	Newspaper subscription costs	Magazine subscription costs
Attorney-General's Department	\$12,369.60	\$33,808.80	\$52,516.80
Australian Crime Commission	\$ 2,016	\$11,034	\$29
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	\$8,953	\$62,315	\$48,836
Australian Federal Police	\$228,748	\$89,654	\$58,663

Australian Human Rights Commission	\$1,422	\$1,545	N/A
Australian Institute of Criminology	\$NIL	\$1,320	Nil
Australian Security Intelligence Office	\$58,381	\$33,979	\$13,268
Australian Law Reform Commission	ALRC does not subscribe to Pay TV	\$1,661.64	NIL
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	NIL	\$23,690.41	NIL
CrimTrac	\$4,533.33	\$2,663.79	NIL
Family Court of Australia	Accounting for Newspaper, Magazines and Media Monitor expenses are combined. The court is unable to distinguish between the expenses without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The annual cost for 2011/12 was \$16,598 (GST Exclusive).		
Federal Court of Australia	N/A	N/A	N/A
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	Accounting for Newspaper, Magazines and Media Monitor expenses are combined. The court is unable to distinguish between the expenses without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The annual cost for 2011/12 was \$22,119 (GST Exclusive).		

National Native Title Tribunal	NIL	\$13,872.55	\$ 40,333.67
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	\$191.00	\$163.00	\$133.92

5.

The Attorney-General's Department provides electronic Newspaper subscriptions to the *Australian* and *The Herald Sun* at a cost of \$10.13 per month per subscription (GST exclusive). The offices are also provided with the *Australian Financial Review* online at a cost of \$618.18 per year (GST exclusive).