

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

Question No. 112

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:

Provision of equipment

- a) Does the department provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices? If so, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?
- b) Does the department provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices? If so, what are the ongoing costs from 7 September 2013 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 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 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:

- a) The Attorney-General's Department provides various mobile phone 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 Department currently provides iPhone devices as the primary mobile phone device to Ministers and their staff. The average purchase price of an iPhone device is approximately \$700.

- b) Mobile devices such as iPhones, iPads and Blackberrys are subject to ongoing annual support charges as follows:

- iPhones = \$558 per item
- iPads = \$410 per item
- Blackberrys = \$660 per item

Ongoing operating costs for electronic equipment provided to Ministers and their offices from 7 September to 18 November 2013 are (all figures are GST exclusive):

- \$12,167 – Mobile phone communication expenses (eg iPhone and Blackberry devices)
 - \$4,855 – Data communication expenses (eg wireless internet and tablet devices)
- c) The Attorney-General's Department provides the following electronic equipment to staff as required to assist them with carrying out their duties:
 - Desktop PCs and Laptops
 - Printers/multi-function devices
 - Citrix remote access tokens
 - Wireless internet dongles
 - Mobile phone devices (eg Blackberry; iPhone etc)

- iPads
- Bluetooth headsets
- Bluetooth car kits
- USB storage devices
- Digital voice recorders
- Digital cameras

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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