

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

Corporate/cross-portfolio/general

Question No. 85

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

Media subscriptions

1. What pay TV subscriptions does the department have?
 - a) Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
 - b) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
2. What newspaper subscriptions does the department have?
 - a) Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
3. What magazine subscriptions does the department have?
 - a) Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
4. What publications does the department purchase?
 - a) Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.
 - b) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?
 - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d) What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?

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

All costs identified below are for the period 7 September 2013 to 18 November 2013.

1.
 - a) To monitor daily news and incident reporting. BBC, CNN, Fox News, Sky News.
 - b) \$4,923.07
 - c) Pay TV broadcasts are provided by the Department of Parliamentary Services.
 - d) Please refer to the Department of Parliamentary Services.
2.
 - a) The Department subscribes to a range of newspapers for staff awareness of current events. The primary titles are Canberra Times, Daily Telegraph, The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian, Financial Review and The Herald Sun. A comprehensive list of subscriptions, determined by specific work areas, is not available as the Department's finance system does not record individual titles.
 - b) \$13,753.24
 - c) The Department's finance system does not record individual titles.
 - d) \$1,403.81
3.
 - a) Subscriptions of this kind are a matter for specific work areas to determine and record. To extract, analyse and consolidate the data from each separate record would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

- b) Expenditure for magazines and journals are recorded within the department's finance system for the relevant period as follows:

Online journal databases:	\$66,344.94 *
Law reports, magazines and journals:	\$42,629.27 **

*This includes annual subscription and licence renewal fees where payment occurred during the reporting period.

** \$37,475.18 of this total comprises annual subscription fees where payment occurred during the reporting period.

- c) The Department's finance systems indicate no magazine subscriptions have been entered into on behalf of Ministerial Offices.
- d) Nil.
4. a) To extract, analyse and consolidate the individual titles from each separate invoice would require an unreasonable diversion of resources. Information about some publications, such as law reports and online journals is provided in the response to question 3.
- b) The department's expenditure for library books in the reporting period was \$19,978.69.
- c) The department's finance systems indicate no publications have been purchased on behalf of Ministerial Offices.
- d) Nil.