

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000013

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Provision of Equipment - Departmental

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig Joe

Question:

Other than desktop computers, list all electronic equipment provided to department/agency staff.

- a. List the items
- b. List the purchase cost
- c. List the ongoing cost
- d. List the staff and staff classification that receive the equipment.

Answer:

- a. iPads, laptops, wireless cards, blackberry, mobile phones and thumb drives are available to staff.
- b. The market value of the current models available are:
 - The iPad Air, is between \$749 and \$1,049 (average of \$899) depending upon the amount of memory purchased with the device. The prices stated are GST inclusive.
 - The Blackberry 9900 is \$666 GST inclusive. The Department of Health re-issues blackberries to staff from its existing fleet.
 - The Nokia Asha handset is \$159.50 GST inclusive. This is the approved departmental handset.
 - The Optus E3276 is \$220 GST inclusive. The Telstra Sierra Wireless Card is also available at a cost of \$249 GST inclusive.
 - The Department has a pool of laptops (Acer and Toshiba models) purchased as part of a wider desktop refresh in the 2011-12 financial year.
 - No records are kept on the number of thumb drives within the Department as these are managed by each divisional unit as part of general stationery purchasing.
- c. Ongoing costs are:
 - iPad devices connecting via the Telstra network monthly data plans are available to the Department ranging from \$19 per month to \$109 per month GST inclusive. For devices connecting via the Optus network, data charges are part of the pooled mobile data plan.
 - Blackberry devices connecting via the Telstra network monthly data plans are available to the Department ranging from \$19 per month to \$109 per month

GST inclusive. Actual phone charges are in addition to this on a \$5 per month plan and fee per call arrangement. For devices connecting via the Optus network, data charges are part of the pooled mobile data plan. For call charges there is either a \$20 per month plan or a fee per call arrangement.

- For mobile phones accessing the Telstra network a \$5 per month plan and fee per call arrangement applies. For mobile phones accessing the Optus network there is a mix of a \$20 per month plan or a fee per call arrangement.
 - For wireless cards connecting via the Telstra network monthly data plans are available to the Department ranging from \$19 per month to \$109 per month GST inclusive. For devices connecting via the Optus network, data charges are part of the pooled mobile data plan, which attracts a monthly surcharge of \$7,500 per month.
 - The Department pays a monthly support charge of \$87.68 GST inclusive per deployed laptop.
 - No records are kept on the number of thumb drives within the Department as these are managed by each divisional unit as part of general stationery purchasing.
- d. Staff classifications that receive the equipment are:
- iPads are only available to senior departmental Executives.
 - Departmental policy allows for the provision of Blackberry devices to SES Officers. Non-SES Officers are able to request where a business justification and First Assistant Secretary level approval is provided.
 - Mobile phones are available to departmental staff where a business justification exists.
 - Wireless cards are available to staff for use with departmental laptops where connectivity to the departmental network is required from remote locations.
 - To provide the further detail requested would involve diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.