

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 390

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Workplace assessments

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How much has been spent on workplace ergonomic assessments since 7 September 2013? List each item of expenditure and cost.
2. Have any assessments, not related to an existing disability, resulted in changes to workplace equipment or set up? If so, list each item of expenditure and cost related to those changes.

Answer:

1. The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources to rectify.

From 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014, total departmental expense on workplace ergonomic assessments was \$977.50 (GST excl). All other assessments are conducted by trained Departmental staff. The details of those costs are as follows:

Type of Assessment	
Workstation Assessment	\$170.00
Workstation Assessment	\$255.00
Workstation Assessment	\$552.50
Total	\$977.50

2. Where it is considered that the risk of a workplace injury to an employee would be reduced by a change in equipment or set-up, reasonable adjustments are implemented. The following table specifies the equipment purchased and the associated cost from 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014 for assessments not related to a disability.

Items Purchased	
Sit / Stand Desks x 5	\$9,060.00
Ergonomic Chair	\$533.00
Ergonomic Workstation Equipment	\$552.73
Ergonomic Workstation Equipment	\$742.73
Total	\$10,888.46