

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Media subscriptions

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 165

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 17 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 4

**Question:**

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency 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 your department/agency 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 your department/agency 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 your department/agency 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?

**Answer:**

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1. Foxtel
  - a. The subscription provides access to breaking news on local and global issues relevant to the execution of the departmental officers' advisory role. Channels subscribed to are:
    - CNN
    - Sky News
    - BBC World News
    - Sports
    - Essentials
    - Parliamentary TV

The Department requires the channels listed above to monitor Government policies.

- b. Details on expenditure for TV subscriptions are contained in question on notice PM 205 – Subscription TV.
    - c. As at answer 1a.
    - d. As at answer 1b.
  2. The Department subscribes to a range of newspapers.
    - a. The Department provides the newspapers to support departmental officers in the execution of their advisory role and a list is provided in question on notice PM 206 – Newspaper and magazine subscriptions.

The Department obtains publications to support departmental officers in the execution of their advisory role.
    - b. See PM 206.
    - c. See PM 139.
    - d. See PM 139.
3. The Department subscribes to a variety of local and international magazines

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- a. The subscriptions provide access to topical articles relevant to the execution of departmental officers' advisory role. The magazines subscribed to are:
- Business Review Weekly: BRW
  - The Economist
  - Foreign Affairs
  - The Monthly: Australian Politics, Society & Culture
  - New Scientist
  - Quadrant
  - Time Australia

The Department obtains publications to support departmental officers in the execution of their advisory role.

- b. See PM 206  
c. See PM 139.  
d. See PM 139.

In addition to subscriptions at 2 and 3 above, the Department also accesses major capital and regional newspapers through its media monitoring service. Question on notice PM 201 – Media Monitoring states costs associated with media monitoring services.

4. The Department purchases a number of publications.
- a. The Department obtains publications to support departmental officers in the execution of their advisory role. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
- b. No publications were purchased for the Minister or the office during the period 1 September 2013 to 31 October 2013.
- c. There are too many publications to list.
- d. The estimated cost from 7 September 2013 to date is included in the answer to 4b.