

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 231

Program No.: Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Ludwig asked:

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?
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?
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.

Answer:

1.
 - a. Foxtel is the ABC's main pay TV service provider and the most commonly subscribed package is the Business Value package which includes access to the following channels:
 - Sports channels
 - News channels
 - Documentaries
 - Music
 - Kids and Family
 - EntertainmentIn addition there are some ABC subscriptions to Disney and Racing channels through Foxtel.

The ABC subscribes to pay TV for a number of reasons including:
 - Monitoring of other sources of news such as CNN and BBC World News for breaking stories and updates
 - Provision of international sports results
 - Reviewing programming that might be suitable for the ABC to acquire
 - Keeping up to date on emerging bands and worldwide music trends.
 - b. The expenditure from 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014 was \$60,000.
2.
 - a. The ABC subscribes to certain newspapers that directly relate to business needs (the provision of news services).
 - b. The expenditure from 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014 was \$319,000 on newspapers and magazines. It is not feasible to split these costs between magazines and newspapers as there are a high volume of low value transactions and most are paid by procurement card.
3.
 - a. The ABC subscribes to magazines that directly relate to business needs.
 - b. Please see response 2(b).