

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: 235

Program No.: Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Senator Ludwig asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to Department/Agency staff? If yes provide a list of what is provided across the Department of Agency, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives each item.

Answer:

The ABC provides ABC staff who are on call or who work away from ABC offices with the necessary electronic equipment to efficiently and effectively undertake their duties. In providing staff with equipment to fulfil their duties away from ABC offices, the nature and needs of individual roles are taken into account and approved by senior management.

The ABC provides broadcasting services on a 24/7 basis. These services include the broadcasting of radio and television services and the provision of online services to a range of devices including smartphones and tablets. Much of this content is broadcast live to air. Twenty four hour operations necessitate the availability of senior and operational management out of hours and also away from ABC offices in order for editorial and operational decisions to be made in a timely fashion. Content making staff who regularly operate in the field and away from ABC locations may also be provided with the necessary equipment to collect, edit and sometimes upload the content back to an ABC system remotely.

Such equipment includes personal computers, mobile and smart phones, wireless cards or virtual private network tokens and a very small number of tablets, digital single lens reflex cameras and video cameras with ancillary equipment and other field recording equipment. The vast majority of staff provided with this equipment are multiplatform content makers working in regional areas as well as operational and senior managers.

Multiplatform content makers are provided with a portable kit including laptop computers, digital cameras, microphones, smartphones and ancillary equipment in order to be able to collect content, edit that content and upload it back to an ABC system remotely while away from an ABC office.

When it is required, staff in operational management roles are provided with laptop personal computers and/or smartphones in order to be able to access critical ABC business systems and communications while away from an ABC office. Some management staff also need to be able to access ABC content while away from the office in order for editorial decisions to be made in a timely fashion.

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The following table provides a summary of the electronic equipment provided to ABC staff as at end February 2014:

Items	Sub Type	Quantity by area of the ABC			Total	Purchase Cost	Comments
		Output	Support	Corporate			
iPads		244	37	16	297	\$233,865	Includes second year Applecare
Laptops	Windows	1,222	515	56	1,679	\$3,772,628	Includes 4 years warranty service next business day response
	Mac	280	14	5	311	\$999,518	
Wireless Cards		153	41	12	206	\$52,814	Ongoing cost of data plans
VPN Tokens					1,720	\$152,805	Token last 3 years
Smart Phones	iPhone	886	140	89	1,115	\$898,688	Ongoing mobile call costs and data plans
	Android	81	29	7	117	\$77,673	
Total						\$6,026,157	

The Output areas include Radio, Television, News, Innovation, ABC International, ABC Commercial and Resources.

The Support areas include the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Business Services, Communications Networks, Legal, ABC People and Technology.

Corporate includes the Chairman, Managing Director and State Directors' Offices and Corporate Affairs.