

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: 62

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Independent cost-benefit analysis and review of regulation

Senator Urquhart asked:

In reference to the *Independent cost-benefit analysis and review of regulation*:

- a. What resources are being made available for this review? How many staff in the Department have been allocated? Are any programs being replaced to fund it?
- b. What are the panel members being paid?
- c. The answer to the question on notice number 47 from Supplementary Estimates noted that “external advisors may be required given the technical and specialised nature of some of the tasks.” Have any advisers been selected yet?
- d. How much are these advisors expected to cost? Has a budget been put aside for this?

Answer:

- a. The Department has established a secretariat of four staff to support the panel. Various other officers in the department provide input into the review at various times. No programs are being replaced to fund it.
- b. The Chair of the panel is being paid \$1,500 per day and panel members \$1,400 per day.
- c. Yes.
- d. The current budget for specialist advisor costs is approximately \$745,000.