

**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: 71**

**Program No. 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Australian Broadband Guarantee project**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

How much did the Australian Broadband Guarantee project cost and how many services were provided by it? What was the capability of these services?

**Answer:**

The Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) consisted of a number of iterations, specifically:

- The ABG 2007-08 Program;
- The ABG 2008-10 Program; and
- The ABG 2010-11 Program – ended on 30 June 2011.

The costs of the ABG program are detailed in the Department's relevant Portfolio Budget Statements:

| <b>Financial Year</b> | <b>Departmental</b> | <b>Administrative</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2007-08               | \$5.2m              | \$47.3m               |
| 2008-09               | \$6.8m              | \$84m                 |
| 2009-10               | \$7.0m              | \$77.8m               |
| 2010-11               | \$5.4m              | \$38m                 |
| 2011-12               | \$0.05m             | \$0                   |
| <b>TOTALS</b>         | <b>\$24.45m</b>     | <b>\$247.1m</b>       |

The ABG program, across all its iterations, provided over 112,000 services.

Under the ABG, end users could elect what broadband speed tier and data allowance they wished to access. Broadband speeds under the different customer access networks included:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Satellite      | Entry Level: 256/64kbps<br>Threshold: 512/128kbps<br>Threshold 2010-11: 1024/256kbps<br>Added Value services offered up to 2mbps download speeds |
| Fixed Wireless | As for Satellite, although Added Value services were available for up to 12mbps/1mbps  |

Pricing controls were only imposed on Threshold Services, although all service plans had to be approved by the department.