

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0121_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Media monitoring

1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office from 7 September 2013 to date? a) Which agency or agencies provided these services? b) What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2013-14? c) What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date? What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency from 7 September 2013 to date? a) Which agency or agencies provided these services? b) What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2013-14? c) What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?

Answer

As a result of changes made to the Administrative Arrangements Orders on 18 September 2013, the answer (where relevant) to this question is in two parts:

1. For the period 7 September to 17 September 2013, the answer refers to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.
2. For the period 18 September to date, the answer refers to the Department of Education and the Department of Employment as media monitoring is currently a service shared by both departments.

1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office from 7 September 2013 to date?

a) Which agency or agencies provided these services?
Australian Associated Press (AAP).

b) What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2013-14?

The cost of media monitoring for portfolio ministers is part of the departments' overall expenditure on media monitoring. The departments do not attribute a portion of general media monitoring expenditure to Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary. The arrangement with the provider includes a certain amount of transcripts and broadcast files each month.

c) What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?

The department does not attribute a portion of general media monitoring expenditure to Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary. The arrangement with the provider includes a certain amount of transcripts and broadcast files each month. There are individual costs for use of a media release distribution service, which some offices have used from time to time.

The following are total costs for media release distribution using this distribution service since 7 September 2013: Assistant Minister Sussan Ley: \$520

2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency from 7 September 2013 to date?

a) Which agency or agencies provided these services?

Australian Associated Press (AAP).

b) What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2013-14?

The estimated budget for media monitoring services for the Departments of Education and Employment for 2013-14 is \$650,000 (excluding GST). In the 2012-13 financial year, the then Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations spent \$745,225.09 (excluding GST) on media monitoring services.

c) What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?

The Departments of Education and Employment have been sharing the same media monitoring arrangement, pending a decision about contractual arrangements following the machinery of government changes. During this period \$77,730.36 (excluding GST) has been spent.