

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-095

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Smith

Question:

- a) For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?
- b) For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date?
- c) 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 details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.
- d) Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing provides each of the three Ministers and one Parliamentary Secretary, and their office staff with blackberry devices. The cost is \$600 excl GST per Blackberry device.
- b) Costs for electronic equipment provided to the three Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, cannot readily be separated from the total expended for the Department/Agency. Therefore, to provide the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.
- c) Yes iPads, laptops, mobile broadband devices, Blackberrys, mobile phones and thumb drives are available to some staff.

Details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost per device and a breakdown of what classification of staff that receive these devices follow.

iPads

- The Department has 17 iPads. No iPads have been purchased in the period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013.
- A mobile internet plan is provided with each iPad that attracts a monthly charge of \$35 GST exclusive (\$421 annually).
- Senior Departmental Executives are provided with iPads.

Blackberry

- As at 31 May 2013 the Department had 432 active blackberry devices.
- The current departmental standard Blackberry handset is the Blackberry 9900. The handset cost is \$600 GST exclusive.
- A monthly Blackberry data plan is provided with each Blackberry device that attracts a monthly charge of \$27 GST Exclusive. Actual phone charges are additional to this.
- Departmental policy allows for the provision of Blackberrys to all SES staff and more broadly to departmental staff where a business justification is provided.

Mobile Phones

- As at 31 May 2013 the Department had 649 mobile phone accounts.
- The approved departmental handset is the Nokia C5. The handset cost is \$175 GST exclusive.
- There is no monthly plan cost. Actual phone call charges are billed against each mobile account.
- Mobile phones are available to departmental staff where a business justification exists.

Mobile Broadband Devices

- The Optus E180 is the standard device approved by the Department. The device cost is \$137 GST exclusive.
- The department pays \$1000 a month for a mobile data pool shared between devices. Where there is a business justification based on mobile coverage requirements, an alternative mobile data plan may be provided that attracts a monthly charge of \$40 GST exclusive (\$480 annually).
- Broadband devices are available to staff for use with departmental laptops where connectivity to the departmental network is required from remote locations.

Laptops

- The Department has a pool of laptops purchased as part of a wider desktop refresh in the 2011-12 financial year. No laptops have been purchased in the period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013.
- The Department pays a monthly support charge of \$78 GST exclusive per deployed laptop.

Thumb Drives

- No records are kept on the number of thumb drives within the Department as these are managed by each divisional unit as part of general stationery purchasing.

d) Yes. The cost for the purchase of electronic equipment for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 was \$16,188.

The Department provides each of our Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary and their offices with the option to use a range of electronic and office equipment including a Blackberry, mobile broadband card, printer, portable computing devices, printers including secure Cabinet printers, televisions, iPads (Minister, Chief of Staff and Parliamentary Secretary only), DVD players, transcription kits, label makers and fax machines to undertake portfolio related business.