

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000719

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

1. 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?

a) Itemise equipment and cost broken down by staff or minister classification

2. Is electronic equipment (such as iPad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive, video cameras) 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:

1. A smartphone is provided to portfolio Ministers and staff in their offices.

a) The current market value of the iPhone is between \$869 and \$1,129 (average \$999) depending upon the amount of memory purchased with the device. The prices stated are GST inclusive. Ministers and all staff are entitled to a smartphone.

2. Yes, iPads, laptops, wireless cards, blackberry, mobile phones and thumb drives are available to 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 of Health has 21 iPads.
- The market value of the current model available, the iPad Air, is between \$744 and \$1,008 (average of \$876) depending upon the amount of memory purchased with the device. The prices stated are GST inclusive.
- For devices connecting via the Telstra network monthly data plans are available ranging from \$40 per month to \$109 per month GST inclusive. For devices connecting via the Optus network, the data charges are part of the pooled mobile data plan.

- iPads are only available to senior Departmental Executives.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.

Blackberry

- The current departmental standard Blackberry handset is the Blackberry 9900.
- As at 10 July 2014 the Department had 284 active Blackberry devices.
- The current market value of the Blackberry 9900 is \$666 GST inclusive.
- For devices connecting via the Telstra network monthly data plans are available ranging from \$49 per month GST inclusive. Actual phone charges are in addition to this on a \$5 per month plan and fee per call arrangement. For devices connecting via the Optus network, the data charges are part of the pooled mobile data plan. For call charges there is either a \$29 per month plan or a fee per call arrangement.
- Departmental policy allows for the provision of Blackberry devices to SES Officers. Non-SES Officers are able to request Blackberry devices where a business justification and First Assistant Secretary level approval is provided.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.

Mobile Phones

- The approved departmental handset is either the Telstra Easy Discovery or the Nokia 301. The market value of these handsets is \$192 GST inclusive and \$107.80 GST inclusive, respectively.
- As at 10 July 2014 the Department had 267 mobile phone accounts.
- For mobile phones accessing the Telstra network a \$5 per month plan and fee per call arrangement applies. For mobile phones accessing the Optus network there is a mix of a \$20 per month plan or a fee per call arrangement.
- Mobile phones are available to departmental staff where a business justification exists.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.

Wireless Cards

- The Optus E3276 is the standard device approved by the Department. The device cost is \$220 GST inclusive. The Telstra 4G Air Card is also available at a cost of \$200 GST inclusive.
- As at 10 July 2014 the Department had 416 wireless card accounts.
- For devices connecting via the Telstra network monthly data plans are available ranging from \$40 per month to \$109 per month GST inclusive. For devices connecting via the Optus network, the data charges are part of the pooled mobile data plan, which attracts a monthly surcharge of \$7,500 per month.
- Wireless cards are available to staff for use with departmental laptops where connection to the Department's network is required from remote locations.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.

Laptops

- The Department has a pool of laptops (Acer and Toshiba models) purchased as part of a wider desktop refresh in the 2011-12 financial year.
- Laptops are purchased under whole of government arrangements. Information on costs can be obtained from the Department of Finance.
- The Department pays a monthly support charge of \$79.71 GST inclusive per deployed laptop.
- Laptops are available to staff for use with departmental broadband devices. They are also supplied to some SES officers in place of a desktop computer.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.

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.
- To provide the further detail requested would involve diversion of resources which the Department is not currently in a position to undertake.