

**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**

**333:**

**(See 333 revised)**

**Program No. Corporate and Business**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Subscriptions - Ministerial**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. What pay TV subscriptions are provided to the Minister or their office? What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?
2. What newspaper subscriptions are provided to the Minister or their office? What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?
3. What magazine subscriptions are provided to the Minister or their office? What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?
4. What publications are provided to the Minister or their office? What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

**Answer:**

1. There were no TV subscription services provided to the Ministers or their office by the Department during the period 1 September 2013 – 31 January 2014.
2. The Ministers office subscribes to eight newspapers, both in online and non-online formats. These are: The Sydney Morning Herald, The Financial Review, The Australian Financial Review, and The Daily Telegraph. The Ministers office subscribes to these newspapers in order to keep apprised of issues raised in the media that are relevant to the achievement of its core functions. The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. Total expenses for newspaper subscriptions from 1 September - 31 January 2014 were \$3,741.41 (GST excl).
3. There are no magazine subscriptions provided to the Ministers or their office by the Department.
4. The Ministers office subscribes to a range of online and non-online publications. The finance systems do not allow for this level of detail of all publications purchased. Refer item 2 above. Total expenses for publications from 1 September 2013 – 31 January 2014 was \$3,219.70 (GST excl).