

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 56

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your Department/Agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
 - b. What is the cost from 25 February 2014 to date?
2. What newspaper subscriptions does your Department/Agency have?
 - c. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - d. What is the cost from 25 February 2014 to date?
3. What magazine subscriptions does your Department/Agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from 25 February 2014 to date?
4. What publications does your Department/Agency purchase?
 - a. Please provide a list of publications purchased by the Department and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from 25 February 2014 to date?

Answer:

1.
 - a. Foxtel is the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) main pay TV service provider and the most commonly subscribed package is the Business Value package which includes access to the following channels:
 - Sports channels
 - News channels
 - Documentaries
 - Music
 - Kids and Family
 - Entertainment

In addition there are some ABC subscriptions to Disney and Racing Channels through Foxtel.

The ABC subscribes to pay TV for a number of reasons including:

- Monitoring of other sources of News such as CNN and BBC World News for breaking stories and updates;
- Provision of international Sports results;

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- Reviewing programming that might be suitable for the ABC to acquire;
 - Keeping up to date on emerging bands and worldwide music trends.
- b. The expenditure from 1 March to 30 June 2014 was \$73,000.
- 2.
- a. The ABC subscribes to certain newspapers that directly relate to business needs (the provision of news services).
- b. The expenditure from 1 March to 30 June 2014 was \$296,000 on newspapers and magazines. It is not feasible to split these costs between magazines and newspapers as there are a high volume of low value transactions and most are paid by procurement card.
- 3.
- a. The ABC subscribes to magazines that directly relate to business needs.
- b. Please refer to answer in 2(b) above.
- 4.
- a. The ABC purchases some publications, given the low value of the transactions and the volume it is not feasible to list every purchase and the reason for purchase. Publications are purchased for technical, research, and professional reasons.
- b. For the period 1 March to 30 June the ABC spent \$22,000 on publications.