

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 613

Program No. Corporate & 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 25 February 2014 to date?
2. What newspaper subscriptions are provided to the Minister or their office? What is the cost for this from 25 February 2014 to date?
3. What magazine subscriptions are provided to the Minister or their office? What is the cost for this from 25 February, 2014 to date?
4. What publications are provided to the Minister or their office? What is the cost for this from 25 February 2014 to date?

Answer:

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.

1. Foxtel. Total expenses from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 were \$472.73 (GST excl).
2. The Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian, The Australian Financial Review and The Daily Telegraph. Total expenses for newspaper subscriptions from 1 February 2014 – 30 April 2014 were \$1,565.08 (GST excl).
3. No magazine subscriptions are provided.
4. The Minister's 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. Total expenses for publications from 1 February 2014 – 30 April 2014 was \$5,191.99 (GST excl).