

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australia Post**

**Question No: 329**

**Program No: Australia Post**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Non-Conventional Therapies**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Since 7 September 2013:

1. Are non-conventional therapies, for staff or ministerial use, able to be provided by the department/agency? (Including, but not limited to: Music Therapy, Hypnosis, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, etc) If yes:
  1. What is the process by which these therapies can be approved?
  2. Who are they available to?
  3. Please detail the reasons the therapies able to be provided (e.g. Work Place Agreement, recommended by a report to the department, etc)?
2. Has the department/agency paid for any non-conventional therapy for any Minister or staff? If yes:
  1. What therapies have been provided?
  2. What were they used to treat?
  3. What was the cost of the therapy?

**Answer:**

1. Australia Post is self-insured for the purposes of workers compensation under the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRC Act). Any medical treatment (conventional or otherwise) provided to employees complies with the requirements of Section 4 of the SRC Act.

Non-conventional therapies are only provided if they are requested by a qualified medical practitioner as defined by the SRC Act.

2. Australia Post has not paid for any non-conventional therapy for any Minister or their staff.