

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

**Question No: 405**

**Program No. ACMA**

**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. Yes.
  1. As part of the current Enterprise Agreement the ACMA will subsidise costs associated with healthy lifestyle activities or equipment that maintain and employees personal health and fitness (this may include activities or equipment that facilitate improved mental health outcomes) and could include non-conventional therapies). A single reimbursement of up to \$400 in each financial year will be made - claims for reimbursement may cover more than one item. Employees are to provide documentary evidence of the expenditure (receipts, bank statements showing periodic debits etc.) for the relevant activities/equipment and give it to the appropriate manager for approval.
  2. All ongoing employees and non-ongoing employees (up to and including Executive Level 2 employees and their technical/professional equivalents) whose contract is for 12 months or more are eligible to claim.
  3. ACMA Enterprise Agreement.
2. No.