

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 633

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscription

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 1. Please provide a list of channels and the reason for each channel.
 2. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
 3. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 4. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
2. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 1. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 2. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
 3. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 4. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
3. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 1. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 2. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
 3. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 4. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
4. What publications does your department/agency purchase?
 1. Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.
 2. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?
 3. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 4. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?

Answer:

1.
 1. Foxtel is the ABC's main pay TV service provider. 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

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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;
- Reviewing programming that might be suitable for the ABC to acquire;
- Keeping up to date on emerging bands and worldwide music trends.

2. The cost of this package from 1 June 2014 to 30 November 2014 was \$63,000.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.

2.

1. The ABC does subscribe to certain newspapers as they directly relate to business needs in providing news coverage,
2. From 1 June to 30 November 2014, the ABC spent \$350,000 on newspapers and magazines. It is not feasible to split these costs between magazines and newspapers as there a high volume of low value transactions and most are paid by procurement card.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.

3.

1. Please refer to answer in 2 above.
2. Please refer to answer in 2 above.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.

4.

1. The ABC purchases some publications for technical, research and professional reasons. Due to the low value and volume of the transactions, it is not feasible to list every purchase.
2. From 1 June to 30 November, the ABC spent \$63,000 on publications.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.