

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 67

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: merchandise or promotional material

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since 7 September 2013:

1. Has the department purchased any merchandise or promotional material?
2. List by item, and purpose for each item, including if the material is for a specific policy or program or for a generic purpose (note that purpose)
3. List the cost for each item
4. List the quantity of each item
5. Who suggested these material be created?
6. Who approved its creation?
7. Provide copies of authorisation
8. When was the Minister informed of the material being created?
9. Who created the material?
10. How was that person selected?
11. How many individuals or groups were considered in selecting who to create the material?

Answer:

1. 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. According to the Department's financial management information system, the Department has expensed \$47,063.02 (GST excl) on merchandise and promotional material over the period 1 September 2013 – 31 October 2014.
- 2-4. These items include a range of promotional products such as banners, video, posters, bags and pens. The costs for these items are as follows:
 - Banners: \$15,424.11
 - Posters: \$1,436.64
 - Promotional video: \$5,404.87
 - Promotional publications and certificates: \$10,070
 - Promotional products: \$14,727.40
- 5-11. To provide a complete list of who suggested the creation of these materials, approving officers and service providers would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.