

**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: 78**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Provision of equipment - departmental**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. Has electronic equipment (such as iPad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive, video cameras) been provided by the department/agency to departmental staff? If yes provide a list of:
2. What has been provided?
3. The purchase cost.
4. The ongoing cost.
5. A list of any accessories provided for the equipment and the cost of those accessories. (e.g. iPad keyboards, laptop carry bags, additional chargers etc).
6. A breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives each item.

**Answer:**

Communication expenditure reported from the Department's financial management systems includes expenditure on items such as: smartphones, portable devices, wireless cards, broadband, fax machines, land lines, mobile phones etc. To attempt to provide disaggregated data would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. The Department can, however, provide certain data on personal issue equipment.

SES officers, and other approved staff, are generally provided with a mobile phone or smartphone, and a device for remote access to the Department's network. Equipment costs fall into the range of:

- i. Workstation: \$522 - \$1,300
- ii. Desk telephone - \$466
- iii. Mobile handset (either phone or smartphone): \$163 - \$1,026
- iv. Laptop: \$1,362 - \$2,050
- v. Tablets: \$397 - \$845