

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 12

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 103, 18/10/2016

Topic: Mobile Black Spots Programme – awareness forums

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: Is it a coincidence that, of the 42 awareness forums, the two marginal coalition electorates had forums twice; whereas the 33 other electorates had no forums? Is that just a coincidence? How did that happen?

Senator Fifield: No-one at the table knows what the number of forums were or where they were held.

Senator URQUHART: I am telling you what they were. Did the department pay any costs of the forums?

Mr Paterson: Not to my knowledge, no.

Senator URQUHART: No costs at all?

Mr Paterson: I would not believe so.

Senator URQUHART: You would not believe so—you do not know for sure?

Mr Paterson: I was not in the job at the time, but I could take it on notice. I would be very surprised if we paid any costs.

Senator URQUHART: Mr Robinson?

Mr Robinson: I would be very surprised as well, but we will take it on notice.

Senator URQUHART: Dr Smith?

Dr Smith: We will take it on notice.

Answer:

The Department did not pay the costs of any awareness forums.