

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

#### **Agency - Comcare**

**Department of Employment Question No. EM1338\_15**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

#### **Comcare - Media subscriptions**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

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

#### **Answer**

*1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have? a. Please provide a list of channels and the reason for each channel. b. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period? c. What is provided to the Minister or their office? d. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?*

Comcare does not pay for pay TV subscriptions.

*2. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have? a. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.*

Comcare subscribes to the following newspapers:

- The Australian
- Sydney Morning Herald
- Canberra Times
- The Age

- West Australian
- Herald Sun
- Australian Financial Review – cancelled on 3 July 2014
- Courier Mail.

The reason Comcare subscribes to the above newspapers is to supply information relevant to Comcare's jurisdiction and operating environment.

*b. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?*

The cost of the above newspaper subscriptions since Budget Estimates in June 2014 to 31 October 2014 is \$2,894.81.

*c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?*

Nil.

*3. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have? a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each. c. What is provided to the Minister or their office? d. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?*

Crikey magazine was cancelled on 3 July 2014.

*b. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?*

\$80.

*c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?*

Nil.

*4. What publications does your department/agency purchase? a. Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.*

Since the Budget Estimates in June Comcare has purchased the following publications/subscriptions:

- IBISWorld Licence
- Lexis Nexis Butts Direct On-line
- Softlaw – SRCA Commentary
- Fair Work Act
- Comlaw publication
- Acts Interpretation Act
- National Library articles
- EBSCO Australia subscription
- Softlaw – Annotated SRC Act
- Occupational Health News
- OHS Alert
- SAI Global – On-line select additions
- Investigative Interviewing
- Living abled & healthy: your guide to injury and illness recovery
- Guides to the evaluation of permanent impairment
- Fitness for work: the medical aspects

- Managing Intelligence
- *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2011*
- *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011*

Comcare purchased/subscribed to the above publications to provide easy access to important information to support employees in undertaking their duties. This includes information on:

- legislative change;
- work related medical conditions including diagnostic criteria, treatment, expected length of disability and return to work considerations;
- tools to assist in better decision making particularly in relation to the duration of incapacity and return to work;
- the most up to date research and precedent legal information; and
- tools to assist Comcare staff who provide policy advice.

*b. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?*

\$88,493.55

*c. What is provided to the Minister or their office? d. What has been the cost of this package/s during the specified period?"*

Nil.