

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Finance
Outcome/Program: 3/3.1
Topic: Coalition Advisory Service

Senator: Jacinta Collins
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Number of pages: 3

Question:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I want to conclude the questions I previously started on the coalition advisory service. I think we had dealt with the number of staff. I also would like to ask what equipment has been allocated since its establishment? I assume you will need to do that on notice? The cost of that equipment, what software packages or licenses have been purchased for the Coalition Advisory Service? What amount has been expended on communication costs, telephone and internet and the like? How much has been expended on travel costs? What amount has been expended on publications? Are any of these areas where you have information immediately accessible?

Ms Connell: I think it is probably easier if we take them on notice and give you a full response to all of those questions.

...

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Okay. Now, does the Coalition Advisory Service have access to media monitoring services?

Ms Moy: No—I do not believe so.

Ms Connell: We will double check that, but we do not believe so.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: When you check that: if so, who provides it, who pays for it and what have those services cost since establishment?

...

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Does the Coalition Advisory Service have access to the telepresence room?

Ms Moy: I would have to check that, Senator.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: And, if so, what priority do they have in comparison to the hierarchy we were talking about earlier?

...

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Has any photographic or video equipment been purchased for the Coalition Advisory Service?

Ms Moy: It is still on notice.

...

CHAIR: I am going intervene here and say that, whilst you have taken all those questions on notice for Senator Collins about the CAS, could you please respond to the same questions in terms of what was the caucus communications group under the previous government, or whatever they were called.

Senator Ronaldson: CCT.

Ms Moy: Yes.

Answer:Coalition Advisory Service (CAS)

This table has been provided by Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) for the CAS. Expenditure is for the period 1 January to 31 May 2014:

| Service | # | Unit cost | Total |
|--|----------|------------------|--------------|
| Laptops | 9 | \$1,362.90 | \$12,266.10 |
| docking stations | 9 | \$174.90 | \$1,574.10 |
| Monitors | 9 | \$310.40 | \$2,793.60 |
| Keyboard/mouse | 18 | \$30 | \$540 |
| Phones - iPhone 5S | 10 | \$1,042 | \$10,420 |
| Phones - plan costs | 9 | \$69/month | \$3,105 |
| Phones - Call costs | 1 | YTD | \$1,317.91 |
| Phones - Visibill costs | 9 | \$9.00 p/quarter | \$135 |
| Helpdesk services | 9 | \$50/month | \$2,250 |
| STANDARD OPERATING ENVIRONMENT support, data storage and internet access | 9 | \$31.25 p/month | \$1,406.25 |
| Microsoft License (CDL) | 9 | \$11.25 p/month | \$506.25 |
| Konica Minolta MFD click charge | 1 | YTD | \$646.01 |
| Brother QL-580 network label printer | 1 | \$245 | \$245 |
| Buffalo external DVD drive | 1 | \$45 | \$45 |

Every laptop provided to CAS is built with a standard operating environment based on Window 7. Programs in the standard operating environment package include Microsoft Office, Microsoft Outlook and Adobe Acrobat. CAS staff are not supplied with any additional software by DPS. Internet access is included as part of the standard operating environment support, data storage and internet access charge. DPS is unable to separate individual usage reports on internet usage.

Travel costs for the CAS from inception to 31 May 2014 (first eight months) were as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Fares | \$7,273.59 |
| Car Transport | \$661.12 |
| Travelling Allowance and Motor Vehicle Allowance | \$1,110 |
| Total | \$9,044.71 |

The Department of Finance (Finance) has not purchased any publications for the CAS. Finance has not provided the CAS with any Media Monitoring Services.

The CAS has access to the telepresence rooms. There is no strict priority enforced, and bookings are negotiated if a clash occurs.

Finance has not provided the CAS with any photographic or video equipment.

Caucus Communications Team (CCT)

This table has been provided by DPS for the CCT. DPS provided equipment and support from 22 December 2011 to 6 September 2013 as shown below:

| Service | # | Unit cost | Total |
|--|----------|------------------|--------------|
| Laptops | 9 | \$1,711 | \$15,399 |
| docking stations | 9 | \$190 | \$1,710 |
| Monitors | 9 | \$250 | \$2,250 |
| Keyboard/mouse | 9 | \$20 | 180 |
| Laser Printer optional Feed bin | 2 | \$408 | \$816 |
| Laser Printer | 1 | \$2,163 | \$2,163 |
| Wireless Broadband Modem | 7 | \$149 | \$1,043 |
| RSA Token | 9 | \$55.00 | \$495 |
| Helpdesk services | 9 | \$150.00 | \$1,350 |
| STANDARD OPERATING ENVIRONMENT support, data storage and internet access | 9 | \$93.70 | \$843.30 |
| Microsoft License (CDL) | 9 | \$33.75 | \$303.75 |
| Smart Label Printer | 2 | \$173 | \$346 |

Every laptop provided to CCT was built with a standard operating environment based on Window 7. Programs in the standard operating environment package include Microsoft Office, Microsoft Outlook and Adobe Acrobat. CCT staff were not supplied with any additional software by DPS. Internet access is included as part of the standard operating environment, data storage and internet access charge. DPS is unable to separate individual usage reports on internet usage.

Travel costs for the CCT for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 August 2013 (last eight months) is as follows:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Fares | \$79,614.58 |
| Car Transport | \$17,936.69 |
| Travelling Allowance and Motor Vehicle Allowance | \$129,660.51 |
| Total | \$227,211.78 |

For the same period, Finance did not purchase any publications for the CCT, nor provide it with any Media Monitoring Services, photographic or video equipment. Like the CAS, the CCT had access to the telepresence rooms.