

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Media subscriptions

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 316

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 4

Question:

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
 - b. What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
2. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
3. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
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 is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- d. What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer:

Newspaper, magazine and publication costs are reported against the same general ledger item; therefore, costs are combined in the response to questions 2 and 3.

1. PM&C currently subscribes to Foxtel and Parliamentary TV.
 - a. The subscription provides access to breaking news on local and global issues relevant to the execution of departmental officers' advisory roles. A list of channels subscribed to by the department is provided in response to question reference number 383.
 - b. The cost from 1 March to 31 May 2014 for Foxtel subscriptions was \$3,309.56 (GST exclusive). Parliamentary TV is paid annually at a cost of \$6,810.69 (GST exclusive) for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.
 - c. Foxtel and Parliamentary TV.
 - d. The cost for the current period is included in the answer to 1b above.
2. Newspapers
 - a. PM&C provides the newspapers to support departmental officers in the execution of their advisory role. Records held centrally in the Department relate to the following newspaper subscriptions:
 - The Age
 - The Australian
 - The Australian Financial Review
 - The Canberra Times
 - The Courier Mail
 - The Daily Telegraph
 - The Financial Times
 - The Financial Times Saturday
 - The Koori Mail
 - The Melbourne Herald Sun
 - The National Indigenous TimesRecords held centrally in the Department relate to the following newspaper subscriptions possible other newspaper subscriptions may be held by the Department that are not reported centrally.
 - b. The cost from 1 March to 31 May 2014 for newspapers and magazine subscriptions was \$48,875.59 (GST exclusive).

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- c. See responses PM 167 Additional Estimates February 2014 and PM 139 Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013.
In March 2014, further newspaper subscriptions were also arranged for the office of the Hon Allan Tudge, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, as follows:
- The National indigenous Times – online
 - The Koori Mail – hardcopy
 - Land Rights News – hardcopy
 - Torres News – hardcopy
 - Yamaji News – hardcopy
- d. The costs for newspapers and magazines provided to the portfolio ministers' offices for the period 1 March to 31 May 2014 is included in the amount listed in the response to question 2b above and was \$21,206.06 (GST exclusive).
3. Magazines.
- a. PM&C subscribes to a variety of local and international magazines. The subscriptions provide access to topical articles relevant to the execution of departmental officers' advisory role. The magazines subscribed to are:
- Business Review Weekly
 - The Economist
 - Foreign Affairs
 - New Scientist
 - Quadrant
 - Time Australia
- b. The cost from 1 March to 31 May 2014 is included in the answer to 2b.
- c. See responses PM 167 Additional Estimates February 2014 and PM 139 Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013.
In March 2014, a magazine subscription for *The Tracker* was also arranged for Mr Tudge's Office.
- d. The cost from 1 March to 31 May 2014 is included in the answer to 2d above.
4. Publications.
- a. PM&C purchased a range of publications to assist officers in the execution of their duties. Most publications are placed in the departmental library for officers to access.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

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Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- b. The cost from 1 March to 31 May 2014 was \$2,443.76.
- c. No publications were provided to the portfolio ministers' offices for the period.
- d. Nil.