

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Provision of equipment

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 169

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?
- b) For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs from 7 September 2013 to date?
- c) Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.
- d) Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.

Answer:

- a) Blackberry at an upfront cost of approximately \$600 (excluding GST) and iPhone at an upfront cost of approximately \$900 (excluding GST).
- b) Ongoing costs for electronic equipment provided to current Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries vary dependant on usage. Minimum monthly ongoing costs are tabled in item c) below.
- c) Yes. The type of electronic equipment provided – including cost and ongoing cost (including GST), is tabled below. Unit cost indicated is based on a single purchase. Unit cost for equipment across the portfolio is dependent on quantity purchased.

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Equipment	Unit / Upfront Cost	Minimum ongoing monthly cost
Blackberry	\$600	\$55
iPhone:		
• iPhone	\$900	
• Voice/data plan, software licence, configuration and support	\$1,090	\$115
	\$1,990	
iPad:		
• iPad	\$850	
• Data plan, software, configuration and support	\$1,040	\$130
	\$1,890	
Laptop	\$1,700	\$0
Wireless 4G Card	\$152	\$40
Thumb drive	\$10	\$0
RSA Token	\$250	\$0

The Departmental policy allows for the allocation of electronic equipment to SES executive officers. Allocation to non-SES staff is based on acceptance of a business case.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not record allocation of electronic equipment by staff classification. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

d) Yes. Consistent with its role as the Minister's Portfolio Department for meeting costs for computer equipment and additional equipment, allocation of electronic equipment tabled at c) above, is available for the ministerial offices of the Prime Minister, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the two Parliamentary Secretaries to the Prime Minister.