

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 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:** 167

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 April 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 7 September 2013 to date?
  - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
  - d) What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 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 7 September 2013 to date?
  - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
  - d) What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 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 7 September 2013 to date?
  - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
  - d) What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 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 7 September 2013 to date?
  - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
  - d) What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?

**Answer:**

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The response refers to information relating to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). Newspapers, magazine and publication costs are reported against the same general ledger item, therefore, costs are combined in the response to questions 1 through 4. To attempt to separate these costs would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

1. Foxtel.
  - a. The subscription provides access to breaking news on local and global issues relevant to the execution of departmental officers' advisory roles. Channels subscribed to are:
    - CNN
    - Sky News
    - BBC World News.
  - b. See response to PM 233.
  - c. Foxtel.
  - d. The estimated 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. The newspapers subscribed to are:
    - The Age
    - The Australian
    - The Australian Financial Review
    - The Canberra Times
    - The Daily Telegraph
    - The Financial Times
    - The Financial Times Saturday
    - The Melbourne Herald Sun
    - The Weekend Australian
  - b. The cost from 1 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 for newspapers and magazine subscriptions was \$28,496.16 (GST exclusive).
  - c. Refer to the response to PM 139 Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013 for the list of hardcopy newspaper subscriptions for the offices of the Prime Minister, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the Parliamentary Secretaries to the Prime Minister (portfolio ministers'

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offices). Electronic subscriptions for the Prime Minister's Office have been established to:

- The Australian
  - News Limited
  - Australian Financial Review
  - Sydney Morning Herald
  - The Age, and
  - The Financial Times
- d. The costs for newspapers and magazines provided to the portfolio ministers' offices for the period 1 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 is included in the amount listed in the response to question 2(b) above and was \$11,785.10.

#### **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: BRW
  - The Economist
  - Foreign Affairs
  - New Scientist
  - Quadrant
  - Time Australia
- b. The cost from 1 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 is included in the answer to 2b.
- c. Refer to the response to PM 139 for the Supplementary Budget Estimates of November 2013 for the list of hardcopy magazine subscriptions for the portfolio ministers' offices.
- d. The cost from September 2013 to February 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.
- b. The cost from 1 November 2013 to February 2014 was \$2,276.00.

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- c. No publications were provided to the portfolio ministers' office for the period.
- d. Nil.