Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Electronic equipment**

Question: **57**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

1. 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.
2. For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date? What were the running costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
3. 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.
4. Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):
   - 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

1. Not applicable. DPS is a parliamentary department.

2. Not applicable. DPS is not responsible for providing electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries.

   Note that DPS provides electronic equipment to the electorate offices of all Senators and Members, according to entitlement policy established under the *Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990*.

3. Yes.

   a) DPS provides 139 **mobile phone** services to DPS staff. The 2012 financial year expenditure on these services to 31 May was $18,176. Mobile phones services are currently issued to staff from PSL1 to SES levels.

   Of the 139 mobile phone services detailed above, 47 new handsets were issued to staff during 2011–12 financial year (to 13 June 2012), at a total cost of $15,757. 42 of these were replacements. The cost of each handset ranged from $90 to $930.

   b) DPS has 57 **iPads** available across all its branches for departmental use. The iPads are currently used by staff from PSL4s to SES levels.

   The cost of purchasing the iPads has ranged from $385 to $835 per device depending on model and purchase date; plus a 2% to 6% administration fee that AGIMO charges for each device purchased. The estimated setup cost for each device is $140 for software licensing and staff time, and the estimated yearly support cost is approximately $160, which covers helpdesk and management software maintenance. Most iPads only connect through the DPS wireless network in Parliament House, so there is no cost for connection or data plans for these. A small number of iPads have data plans—total cost for these are $77.80 per month.

c) There are currently 29 **laptops** on personal issue to staff (at levels ranging from PSL6 to SES), typically to enable after-hours work or for on-call support. DPS also has laptops issued to work areas for business use as required; to Hansard and Broadcasting for use in a range of Parliament House locations and external committees; and to sections such as projects and IT support areas (including the 2020 helpdesk) for development, testing and IT support purposes. DPS also provides five laptops to Whips' offices as part of the Senators and Members paging system.

The cost of purchasing the laptops has ranged in price from $1,710 to $3,933 each depending on the model and date purchased. The estimated setup cost for each laptop is $717 for software licensing and staff time, and the estimated yearly support cost is approximately $850, which covers helpdesk and management software maintenance.

d) DPS provides **RSA tokens** for users requiring remote access to the Parliamentary Computing Network (PCN). The tokens are typically used by ICT support staff and staff requiring access to the PCN outside of normal working hours for on-call support, after-hours work etc. There are 254 active token users within DPS from PSL4 to SES. The cost of each RSA token is approximately $70 for three years of use.

4. Not applicable. DPS does not support a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.