

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013

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 Ryan

Question reference number: 95

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 3

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 for this financial year 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 for this financial year 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 for this financial year to date?

Answer: The response only refers to information relating to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). Newspapers and magazine costs are reported against the same general ledger item therefore costs are combined in the response to Questions 2 and 3. To attempt to separate these costs would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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1. Foxtel
 - a. The subscription provides access to breaking news on local and global issues relevant to the execution of the departmental officers' advisory role. Channels subscribed to are:
 - CNN
 - Sky News
 - BBC World News
 - b. The cost for this financial year to date is \$10,945
2. The department subscribes to a range of newspapers.
 - a. The department 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 Sydney Morning Herald
 - The Weekend Australian
 - b. The cost for this financial year to date for newspapers and magazines is \$95,779. Please note the previous figure provided 2nd April 2013 of \$107,758 is an administrative error and should have been reported as \$73,413.

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3. The Department subscribes to a variety of local and international magazines
 - a. 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
 - The Monthly: Australian Politics, Society & Culture
 - New Scientist
 - Quadrant
 - Time Australia
 - b. The estimated cost for this financial year to date is included in the answer to 2b.

In addition to subscriptions at 2 and 3 above, the Department also accesses major capital and regional newspapers through its media monitoring service. PM 85 states costs associated with media monitoring services.