

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Portfolio**

**Question No. 135**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:**

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?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) is a government business enterprise operating on a commercial and competitive basis in providing legal and related services to government and its agencies. AGS does not receive any Budget or other appropriations and its employees are engaged outside of the *Public Service Act 1999*. The question is therefore not applicable to AGS.

The NNTT will not be providing a response to this question, as from 1 July 2012 the National Native Title Tribunal is no longer a *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* Agency, and is funded to carry out its functions as a sub-program of the Federal Court of Australia's appropriation.

Please see table below for all other responses

1. a-b) For the 2012-13 financial year information for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 September, please refer to QoN response 126 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates round.

**Pay TV subscriptions**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Description of changes to Pay TV subscriptions since 1 October 2012, including any new prices</b>	<b>Total cost of Pay TV subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013)</b>
Attorney-General's Department	No change since October 2012	\$3922
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	No change since October 2012	Nil
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	No change since October 2012	Nil
Australian Crime Commission	No change since October 2012	\$1,667
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	One additional Foxtel Pay TV subscription required for news media monitoring purposes at a cost of approximately \$60 per month. Some subscriptions were altered as the current package on offer from the provider was discontinued. The new packages varied marginally in content and price.	\$4,922
Australian Federal Police	No significant changes since October 2012	\$82,727
Australian Human Rights Commission	No change since October 2012	\$1,476
Australian Institute of Criminology	No change since October 2012	Nil
Australian Law Reform Commission	ALRC does not subscribe to Pay TV	Nil
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	No change since October 2012	\$25,857
AUSTRAC	No change since October 2012	Nil
CrimTrac	CrimTrac has a contract with Foxtel. The cost of this service has not changed since 16 October 2012.	\$3,130
Family Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	\$1,025
Federal Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	\$0.00
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	\$0

High Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	Nil
Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia	No change since October 2012	\$567
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	Subscription cancelled	\$95
Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	No change since October 2012	Nil
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	No change since October 2012	Nil

2. a)-b) For the 2012-13 financial year information for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 September, please refer to QoN response 126 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates round.

#### Newspaper subscriptions

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Description of changes to Newspaper subscriptions since 1 October 2012, including any new prices</b>	<b>Total cost of Newspaper subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013)</b>
Attorney-General's Department	No change since October 2012	\$33,482.14
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	Unable to supply detail without extensive diversion of resources to check individual accounts, however basic subscription level remains consistent with February 2012 response to QoN 87	\$8,834.11
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	No change since October 2012	\$1,304
Australian Crime Commission	Yes, ACC Offices have subscribed to fewer newspapers per office.  Adelaide Advertiser Australian Weekend Australian Courier Mail Melbourne Age Herald Sun Western Australian Financial Review Canberra Times	\$4,647

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	No change since October 2012	\$11,322
Australian Federal Police	No change since October 2012	\$24,661
Australian Human Rights Commission	No change since October 2012	\$4,433
Australian Institute of Criminology	No change since October 2012	Nil
Australian Law Reform Commission	No change since October 2012	\$1,241.90
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	No change since October 2012	\$18,377
AUSTRAC	No change since October 2012	\$8,972
CrimTrac	CrimTrac's newspaper subscription has not changed since 16 October 2012.	\$557
Family Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	Accounting for Newspaper & Magazine expenses are combined and the Court is unable to distinguish them without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The year to date cost (to January 2013) is \$13,540
Federal Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	\$54,390 for newspapers and magazines
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	Accounting for Newspaper & Magazine expenses are combined and the court is unable to distinguish them without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The year to date cost (to January 2013) is \$14,258.
High Court of Australia	For the High Court of Australia subscriptions of this kind are a matter for specific work areas to determine. To extract, analyse and consolidate the data from each separate record would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.	
Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia	No change since October 2012	\$7591.54
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	No change since October 2012	\$328
Office of the	No change since October 2012	\$13,439.73

Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions		
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	OPC subscribes to newspapers for staff to keep up to date with current events relevant to their work. From 1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012, the weekly expenditure on newspapers was \$70.20. Additional newspaper subscriptions from 1 October 2012 for staff working in another location, as a result of a Machinery of Government transfer, added \$40 per week to OPC's subscription costs. The newspaper subscriptions are for: The Age, The Australian, Canberra Times, Australian Financial Review, Melbourne Herald Sun, Sydney Morning Herald and Daily Telegraph.	\$3,151.47

2. a)-b) For the 2012-13 financial year information for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 September, please refer to QoN response 126 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates round.

**Magazine subscriptions**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Description of changes to Magazine subscriptions since 1 October 2012, including any new prices</b>	<b>Total cost of Magazine subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013)</b>
Attorney-General's Department	No change since October 2012	See response to 2 b). The department's finance system does not separately record newspapers and magazines.
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	No change since October 2012	\$63.59
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	No change since October 2012	Nil
Australian Crime Commission	No Change Four subscriptions to magazines to assist investigations.	\$351
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	No change since October 2012	\$28,849 including technical and legal journal subscriptions
Australian Federal Police	No change since October 2012	\$40,083 including professional journals, e-journals and business magazine subscriptions

Australian Human Rights Commission	No change since October 2012	Nil
Australian Institute of Criminology	No change since October 2012	Nil
Australian Law Reform Commission	No change since October 2012	Nil
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	No change since October 2012	\$5,570
AUSTRAC	No change since October 2012	Nil
CrimTrac	CrimTrac does not have any magazine subscriptions for this financial year to date.	Nil
Family Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	Accounting for Newspaper & Magazine expenses are combined and the Court is unable to distinguish them without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The year to date cost (to January 2013) is \$13,540
Federal Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	See answer for newspapers
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia	No change since October 2012	Accounting for Newspaper & Magazine expenses are combined and the court is unable to distinguish them without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The year to date cost (to January 2013) is \$14,258.
High Court of Australia	For the High Court of Australia subscriptions of this kind are a matter for specific work areas to determine. To extract, analyse and consolidate the data from each separate record would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.	
Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia	No change since October 2012	Nil.
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	No change since October 2012	Nil
Office of the Commonwealth	No change since October 2012	Nil

Director of Public Prosecutions		
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	<p>OPC subscribes to magazines for staff to keep up to date with current events and information relevant to their work. The weekly expenditure on magazines is \$22.95. The magazine subscriptions are for: Business Review Weekly and The Economist.</p>	\$298.50