

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

**Portfolio**

**Question No. 102**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:**

Media subscriptions

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:**

For 2012-13 financial year information up to 31 January 2013, please refer to QoN response 135 from the Additional Estimates round.

For the period 1 February 2013 to 30 May 2013 please see below.

**Australian Government Solicitor**

The 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.

**National Native Tribunal**

The National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) will not be providing a response to this question, as from 1 July 2012 the NNTT 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. On 12 March 2013 the Courts and Tribunals Legislation Amendment (Administration) Act 2013 came into operation. On that day the Australian Public Service Commissioner signed a determination which transferred all staff employed by the Tribunal to the Federal Court of Australia under s.72 of the Public Service Act, but those staff are designated staff assisting the Tribunal under the Native Title Act.

**1. a)-b) 2012-13 financial year for the period 1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013**

**Pay TV subscriptions**

Agency	a)Description of changes to Pay TV subscriptions since 1 February 2013, including any new prices	b) Total cost of Pay TV subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013)
Attorney-General's Department	No change since 1 February 2013	\$3,922
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Australian Crime Commission	No change since 1 February 2013	\$1,000.61
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	One additional Austar Foxtel subscription since 1 February 2013 at \$110 per month. Subscriptions are used for news and information gathering purposes.	\$3,176
Australian Federal Police	AFP have been actively rationalising subscriptions during the 12/13 Financial Year. No significant change to channels or reason for service since 1 February 2013.	\$84,875
Australian Human Rights Commission	No change since 1 February 2013	\$844
Australian Institute of Criminology	No change	Nil
Australian Law Reform Commission	No change	Nil
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	No change since 1 February 2013	\$23,367
AUSTRAC	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
CrimTrac	No change since 1 February 2013	\$1788.20

<b>Agency</b>	<b>a)Description of changes to Pay TV subscriptions since 1 February 2013, including any new prices</b>	<b>b) Total cost of Pay TV subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013)</b>
Family Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	\$615
Federal Circuit Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	\$0
Federal Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
High Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	\$316.36
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	Nil	Nil
Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil

## **2. a)-b) 2012-13 financial year for the period 1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013**

### **Newspaper subscriptions**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>a)Description of changes to Newspaper subscriptions since 1 February 2013, including any new prices</b>	<b>b) Total cost of Newspaper subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013)</b>
Attorney-General's Department	Unable to supply detail without extensive diversion of resources to check individual accounts, however basic subscription level remains consistent with February 2013	\$18,331.60

Agency	a) Description of changes to Newspaper subscriptions since 1 February 2013, including any new prices	b) Total cost of Newspaper subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013)
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	Unable to supply detail without extensive diversion of resources to check individual accounts, however basic subscription level remains consistent with February 2013	\$4,873.85
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	No change since 1 February 2013	\$873.35
Australian Crime Commission	Financial Review price increase mid March' 13 from \$3.00 to \$3.30 each	\$2,108.83
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	No change since 1 February 2013	\$11,322
Australian Federal Police	No change since 1 February 2013	\$14,696
Australian Human Rights Commission	No change since 1 February 2013	\$2,471
Australian Institute of Criminology	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Australian Law Reform Commission	No change since 1 February 2013	\$1,214.90
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	No change since 1 February 2013	\$18,264
AUSTRAC	No change since 1 February 2013	\$1,707
CrimTrac	No change since 1 February 2013	\$231.63
Family Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	Accounting for Newspaper & Magazine expenses are combined and the Court is unable to distinguish them without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The Feb 2013 to May

Agency	a) Description of changes to Newspaper subscriptions since 1 February 2013, including any new prices	b) Total cost of Newspaper subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013)
		2013 cost is \$5,349.
Federal Circuit Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	Accounting for Newspaper & Magazine expenses are combined and the court is unable to distinguish them without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The Feb 2013 to May 2013 cost is \$7,246.
Federal Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	\$47,519 for newspapers and magazines
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 1 February 2013	\$4076.88
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	No change since 1 February 2013	\$235.63

Agency	a) Description of changes to Newspaper subscriptions since 1 February 2013, including any new prices	b) Total cost of Newspaper subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013)
Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	<p>Adelaide Advertiser, The Age, The Australian, Australian Financial Review, Cairns Post, Canberra Times, Courier Mail, Daily Telegraph, Finance Review, Herald Sun, National Indigenous Times, Northern Territory News, Sun Herald, Sunday Telegraph, Sydney Morning Herald, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Australian, Weekend West, West Australian.</p> <p>Newspapers are provided to keep staff informed on current affairs and issues that might be relevant to, or impact upon, the agency and/or the operation of its functions.</p>	\$7,596.86
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	No change since 1 February 2013.	\$1,612.81

**3. a)-b) 2012-13 financial year for the period 1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013**

**Magazine subscriptions**

Agency	a) Description of changes to Magazine subscriptions since 1 February 2013, including any new prices	b) Total cost of Magazine subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013)
Attorney-General's Department	No change since 1 February 2013	See response to 2 b). The department's finance system does not separately record newspapers and magazines.
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Australian Crime Commission	No change since 1 February 2013	\$63.33
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	No change since 1 February 2013	\$28,847
Australian Federal Police	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Australian Human Rights Commission	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Australian Institute of Criminology	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Australian Law Reform Commission	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	No change since 1 February 2013	\$1,643
AUSTRAC	No change since 1 February 2013	\$0
CrimTrac	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil

Agency	a) Description of changes to Magazine subscriptions since 1 February 2013, including any new prices	b) Total cost of Magazine subscriptions for the financial year to date (1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013)
Family Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	Accounting for Newspaper & Magazine expenses are combined and the Court is unable to distinguish them without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The Feb 2013 to May 2013 cost is \$5,349 (GST Exclusive).
Federal Circuit Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	Accounting for Newspaper & Magazine expenses are combined and the court is unable to distinguish them without an unreasonable diversion of resources. The Feb 2013 to May 2013 cost is \$7,246 (GST Exclusive).
Federal Court of Australia	No change since 1 February 2013	See answer to question 2
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 1 February 2013	Nil
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	No change since 1 February 2013	Nil
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	No change since 1 February 2013.	\$167.60