

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

Question No. 104

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Media Subscriptions

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)?

- a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
- b) What was the cost for 2010-11?
- c) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers?

- d) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
- e) What was the cost for 2010-11?
- f) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines?

- g) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
- h) What was the cost for 2010-11?
- i) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?

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

For the Attorney-General's Department and the following portfolio agencies: Australian Customs and Protection Service, Australian Federal Police, Australian Government Solicitor, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, High Court of Australia, Office of Parliamentary Counsel, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, subscriptions of this kind are a matter for specific work areas to determine, in accordance with relevant policies and guidelines. The information in question is therefore spread across the Department and various portfolio agencies as well as units and in some cases individuals within those agencies, depending on the particular business requirements. To extract, analyse and consolidate the data from each separate record would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

All financial figures are GST exclusive.

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity

- a) No
- b)-c) Not Applicable
- d) Yes - Staff awareness of current events, average monthly cost is \$136.50 Canberra Times, Financial Review, The Australian and The Age.
- e) \$1 734.50
- f) \$1 729.00
- g) No
- h)-i) Not Applicable

Australian Crime Commission

- a) Yes. Foxtel. The purpose of the access is to provide 24 hour news updates used by the ACC's telephone interception and operational areas. Staff are required to be abreast of current and significant news items as part of core business activities in intelligence gathering and reporting. The basic package with news channels is purchased.
- b) \$1 658.96
- c) The estimated costs are \$1700.
- d) Yes: The Australian, Canberra Times and Financial Review. To inform Executive staff of current news.
- e) \$3867.93
- f) \$4000
- g) No.
- h)-i) Not applicable.

Australian Human Rights Commission

- a) Yes. The Commission uses pay TV to monitor media coverage of our Commissioners and human rights issues on Sky Television and other news and current affairs channels. The Commission subscribes to the IQ2 channel package, costing \$198/month
- b) nil
- c) \$2 830.50
- d) Financial Review, The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Telegraph, to monitor media coverage of our Commissioners and human rights issues
- e) \$6 600
- f) \$7 200
- g) No
- h) Not applicable
- i) Not applicable

Australian Law Reform Commission

- a) Nil
- b) Nil
- c) Nil
- d) The Australian Law Reform Commission subscribes to the following newspapers- Financial Review, Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian and Koori Mail. The reason for our subscriptions to the above newspapers is to assist the ALRC to keep abreast of current affairs and policy debate as they impact on the inquiry work past and present. The total cost was \$2,440.
- e) The cost of newspapers for 2010-11 was \$2 440.
- f) The estimated cost for 2011-12 is \$2 400.

- g) The Australian Law Reform Commission subscribes to the following magazines- Institute of Public Admin Today, University Law Review, Australian Journal of Human Rights, Australian Indigenous Law Review, Native Title News, Australian Feminist Law Journal, Justinian, Human Rights Quarterly, Family Law Review, Indigenous Law Bulletin, Australian Law Librarian, Alternative Law Journal, Lawyers Weekly, Australian Law Reports, The Modern Law Review, Family Law Alert. The reason for our subscriptions to the above magazines is to assist the ALRC to keep abreast of legal affairs and policy debate as they impact on the ALRC's inquiry work past and present.
- h) The cost for 2010-11 was \$1 617.00.
- i) The cost for 2011-12 is estimated to be \$1 600

CrimTrac

- a) For the monitoring of news, science and crime programs. Channels subscribed to are: A-Pac, Sky News Australia, Sky News for Business, BBC World, Bloomberg Television, CNBC, CNN, Crime and Investigation Network, Discovery Channel, Discovery Science, Fox News Channel, Weather Channel.
- b) \$4 465.56
- c) Estimated cost for 2011-12 is \$4 000. The estimate for 2011-12 is reduced after an internal communication review.
- d) For the monitoring of news – CrimTrac currently subscribes to The Australian and the Canberra Times.
- e) \$8 644.08
- f) The estimated cost for 2011-12 is \$3 000. The estimate for 2011-12 is substantially reduced after an internal communication review.
- g) For the monitoring of news, relevant technological articles, science breakthroughs – CrimTrac currently subscribes to Business Review Weekly, Managing Information Systems, Harvard Business Review and New Scientist.
- h) The approximate cost for 2010-11 is \$8 069.93.
- i) The estimated cost for 2011-12 is \$6 000. The estimate for 2011-12 is reduced after an internal communication review.

Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia

- a) Yes, for management to keep abreast of current affairs. The cost is \$73.70 per month for the "Business Value package" and includes the following channels: Fox Sports 1, Fox Sports 2, Fox Sports 3, Fox Sports News, Euro Sport, ESPN, ESPN2, Fuel TV, Speed, Sky News National, Sky News Local, Sky News Business, Sky News Multiview, World News, CNN, The Weather Channel, Bloomberg, Fox News, CNBC, a-pac, National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo Adventure, Discovery Channel, Science, Home & Health, TLC, Animal Planet, History, Crime Investigation, Nitv, BBC Knowledge, Max, Channel V, Channel V Hits, MTV Classic, MTV Hits, CMC, Nickelodeon, Nick Jnr, Cartoon Network, Boomerang, Lifestyle, Lifestyle Food, Fox 8, W, Fox Classics, Arena, TV1, UKTV, Aurora, Comedy, E!, Bio, 111 Hits, TCM, Expo, STVDIO, MTV, Lifestyle Home
- b) \$884.50
- c) \$884.50

- d) Yes, to keep management and staff up to date with business, economic and political developments and issues. The following newspapers are purchased:
Courier Mail, The Australian, The Western Australian, Reconciliation Action Plan, Koori Mail, SA Advertiser and the, Financial Review.
- e) \$6 990.60
- f) \$7 275.45
- g) There are no magazine subscriptions.
- h) Nil
- i) Nil