

**Question on Notice
No. 568
Asked on 20 April 2006**

MR MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the several changes in contractual arrangements with Telstra and Optus which have occurred in his portfolio between 2000 and 2006 for the provision of services including telecommunications, data lines and switchboard lines—

(1) What was the duration and the cost of each contract with each provider for the period of their respective contracts during the abovementioned period?

(2) In respect of the contracts in (1) what was the breakdown of costs (reported separately) for each of the components, i.e. telecommunications, data lines and switchboard lines?

ANSWER:

During the 2000 to 2006 period, the Department of Emergency Services has entered into a range of contracts for the services in question. Our major contracts are typically of three years duration and are established in accordance with whole-of-Government directives and arrangements. The manner in which the department's financial systems record and apportion the costs for telecommunications products and services does not allow for a breakdown of the costs charged by each provider as requested in (1), nor does it provide for the requested component breakdown in (2).

Below is an overview and is indicative of the services in question. All figures are based on financial years and exclude GST.

Financial Year	All Providers
1999 – 2000	\$1,426,716
2000 – 2001	\$1,418,313
2001 – 2002	\$1,613,712
2002 – 2003	\$1,652,773
2003 – 2004	\$1,692,274
2004 – 2005	\$1,740,361
2005 – 2006 *	\$1,758,007

Source: DES Chart of Accounts

* Incomplete Financial Year – Up to 31 March 2006 only.