

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into the Impact of Defence Training Activities and Facilities on Rural and Regional Communities – 21 November 2017 – Wodonga

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Panels

Question reference number: 9

Senator: Bridget McKenzie

Type of question: Spoken, Hansard pages 40-41

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 December 2017

Question:

CHAIR: And then the second question is: how many panels do you have and how many people on those panels are qualified? Is that a stat that anybody looks at or keeps?

Senator McKENZIE: What are the qualifications?

CHAIR: How do you get on a panel?

Ms Wood: You probably realise that we have maybe hundreds of panels in the Commonwealth, and they're accessed by a lot of departments. But we can certainly take that on notice.

CHAIR: There's a whole-of-government panel, is there?

Ms Wood: The information is all available on AusTender and it can be searched in that way, but I would suggest—

Senator McKENZIE: Probably, like SMEs, senators might find it a bit complex.

CHAIR: Sometimes the information, when you do search for something on AusTender, is not abundantly obvious. When you've found what you think you're looking for you can't understand it.

Ms Wood: Yes, certainly, but there is a really good help desk to assist with that process.

CHAIR: But you don't know how many panels are related to Defence?

Ms Wood: We do have a list, yes. We can do that.

CHAIR: We'd like the list of the panels that relate to Defence. And could you tell us how many people on those panels are qualified.

Ms Wood: That might be difficult, but we can certainly take that on notice and find out what information we can provide.

CHAIR: Why would that be difficult? I'd assume that you've created these panels to have a qualified tendering community so you can get what you want quickly.

Ms Wood: Certainly. We've got a list of all of the people that are on the panels. I just think it's a large amount of information. But I'm happy to provide that.

Answer:

At 28 November 2017 Defence had 195 active standing offer/panel arrangements with a total of 1,712 listed suppliers on AusTender. Each of these suppliers met the pre-qualification requirements as part of the competitive evaluation processes used to establish the relevant standing offer panel. The complete list of current Defence panels and suppliers can be viewed on AusTender¹.

At 28 November 2017 Defence is a participant on 342 active standing offer/panel arrangements established by other agencies with a total of 6,186 listed suppliers on AusTender. The complete list of standing offer/panel arrangements established by other agencies, where Defence is a participant, and what is the number of suppliers can be viewed on AusTender².

In the planning stages of establishing a standing offer/panel arrangement, Defence Officials undertake market research, develop requirements and select an appropriate procurement method in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

For Open Tender approaches to market, the procurement opportunity is published to AusTender for all interested/registered suppliers, who may then submit a tender response. An evaluation of the tender responses is undertaken and if successful, these suppliers enter into a Deed of Agreement with the Commonwealth, and then become part of the Panel of suppliers.

In addition, some Defence standing offer/panel arrangements contain refresh provisions to enable suppliers to join the arrangement post establishment. For example, the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment-Support Services Panel and its replacement (the Defence Support Services Panel which is currently under evaluation) utilised an Open Tender approach to market – for both the Panel establishment and ‘refresh’ (ability for suppliers to join post panel establishment) opportunities.

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<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.advancedsearch.CNISONRedirect&type=sonEvent&atmType=archived%2Cclosed%2Cpublished%2Cproposed&agencyStatus=2&agencyUUID=0EC98EF9-E020-5DA9-DCB10135BE81BD2B&portfolioUUID=&keyword=&KeywordTypeSearch=AllWord&SONID=&dateType=current&dateStart=&dateEnd=&MultiAgencyAccess=&panelArrangement=&supplierName=&supplierABN=&ATMID=&AgencyRefId=>

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https://www.tenders.gov.au/?agencyStatus=2&AgencyUUID=0EC98EF9-E020-5DA9-DCB10135BE81BD2B&dateStart=&dateEnd=&dateType=Current&SON_ID=&multiAgencyAccess=&PanelArrangement=&AgencyReportType=Participant+Agency&submitCriteria=Display+Results&event=public.reports.SON.participantAgencies.show