

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Public Accounts and Audit

19 April 2024

QoN Number: 11

Subject: Subject matter expertise of the tender assessment staff

Asked by: Julian Hill

Question:

Mr Julian Hill MP: What subject matter expertise did the tender assessment staff have to assess these tenders?

Mr Drew Layton: Given the nature of procurement, and that it was intended to be a whole-of-government capability it was deemed appropriate to draw in a range of subject matter experts from those agencies most likely to use the capability in the future. I would need to check the records but I believe we had at least representatives from the department of Agriculture. There were a range of officials from across the Department itself, including ICT experts within the Department to go to your point. There were officials from the department of Finance, and some other agencies as well, I can definitely get you the full list of people involved in that.

Mr Julian Hill MP: If you could, that would be excellent.

Answer:

Evaluation Committee

The evaluation of tenders received in response to the Request for Tender (RFT) for the Permissions Capability (HOMEAFFAIRS/2054/RFT) was conducted by an Evaluation Committee that was comprised of representatives from the Department of Home Affairs (the Department), the Department of Finance, the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Departmental representatives came from areas with responsibility for ICT, visa program support, border program support, finance and client service design. DTA was represented due to its initial designation as the lead for delivery of the project and its overarching responsibility for whole-of-government ICT reuse cases. The Department of Finance was represented due to the significant expenditure under consideration and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for its interest in the reuse capability.

The membership of the Evaluation Committee was as follows:

Role	Title	Area of Expertise	Agency
Chair	First Assistant Secretary	Service Delivery and Transformation Division	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Secretary	Management Accounting	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Secretary	Architecture and Innovation	Department of Home Affairs
Member	A/g Assistant Secretary	Visa Business Optimisation	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Secretary	Traveller Policy and Industry Engagement	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Secretary	Head of Permissions Capability	Digital Transformation Agency
Member	Assistant Secretary	Data and Technology	Department of Finance
Member	Assistant Secretary	Border Controls	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Technical and Commercial Evaluation Teams

The Evaluation Committee considered assessments undertaken by a Technical Evaluation Team (TET) and a Commercial Evaluation Team (CET). Members of the CET and TET were selected on the basis of their skillsets and experience in respect to the commercial or technical assessment of tenders and/or for their understanding of the operating environment of the sought-after solution. The TET comprised departmental expertise in the areas of visa and border program support, biometrics, ICT, cyber security, intelligence and client service design. The Australian Bureau of Statistics provided statistical expertise and the DTA brought a reuse capability perspective.

The TET membership comprised:

Role	Title	Area of Expertise	Agency
TET Lead	Assistant Secretary	Service design	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Director	Visa specialist	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Director	Visa policy/program management	Department of Home Affairs
Member	APS 6	Visa policy/program management	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Director	Visa policy/program management	Department of Home Affairs
Member	APS 6	Visa policy/program management	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Director	Identity and biometrics specialist	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Director	Enterprise Architecture	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Director	Enterprise architecture	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Contractor	Enterprise architecture	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Director	Cyber Security	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Director	Service design	Department of Home Affairs
Member	A/g Director	Intelligence	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Superintendent	Border programs	Australian Border Force
Member	A/g Director	Statistics	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Member	Assistant Director	Reuse cases	Digital Transformation Agency
Member	Assistant Director	Reuse cases	Digital Transformation Agency

The CET focused on the commercial and pricing elements of each tender and brought together finance, procurement and service design expertise. Its membership comprised:

Role	Title	Area of Expertise	Agency
CET Lead	Director	Procurement (sourcing and vendor management)	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Director	Management Accounting	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Consultant	Service design	Department of Home Affairs
Member	Assistant Director	Finance	Department of Finance