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## **Public Works Committee inquires into new DHS premises**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed fit out of new leased premises for the Human Services Portfolio at Greenway, ACT.

The Department of Human Services has submitted its proposal for the fit out of a new building for departmental staff. The proposed fit out will enable approximately 90 per cent of the portfolio's national office staff to co-locate into sites in the Tuggeranong Town Centre precinct. The department will be able to relinquish a number of smaller leases across the ACT. The total value of the proposed works is \$38.55 million.

The proposed scope of the works for the fit out of the new building will be based on the department's accommodation guidelines, and will include: one major entry reception/security control point; a flexible modular office design; enclosed offices and open plan workstations; meeting, break out and carers rooms; first aid rooms and a prayer room; resource rooms and shared storage; lockers and bicycle racks; and a café.

If Parliamentary approval is given, the fit out design will commence in September 2011, and the building will be ready for occupation in June 2013.

The Public Works Committee is responsible for ensuring that the need, cost and scope proposed is appropriate.

'This proposal would represent a significant consolidation of departmental staff to a new, purpose-built, central facility,' Ms Saffin said. 'The Committee is concerned to ensure that the proposed works will meet the current and future needs of DHS, and that the Commonwealth is getting value for money.'

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

**Submissions to the inquiry close on Friday 3 June 2011.**

**The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposal on Friday 27 May 2011 in Parliament House, Canberra. The hearing will be held in Committee Room 1R4 at 2.00pm. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.**

**NB** the Public Works Committee is neither involved in the tendering process nor the awarding of contracts. Enquiries on those matters should be addressed to the Department of Human Services.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair's media advisor, Lee Duncan on 0448 158 150.

**For further information**, including how to make a submission, the public hearing times, and copies of submissions when they become available, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on 0434 567 521.