

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 011

**Topic:** Consultancies

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Cash** asked:

How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since 1 July 2010? How does the Department justify this expenditure?

**Answer:**

For the period 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) spent \$8.5 million (GST exclusive) on consultancies. Details of all consultancies over \$10,000 are publically available on the AusTender website.

FaHCSIA obtains consultancy services in the following circumstances:

- where there is a need for independent research or assessment
- where there is a need for specialised or professional skills
- where the required skills are unavailable.

These reasons are consistent with Financial Management Guidance issued by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.