

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Consultancies

**Question reference number:** HS 77

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 April 2016

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

- a) How many consultancies have been undertaken? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc.). Also include total value for all consultancies.
- b) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
- c) Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
  - 1) List each, including name, cost and purpose
  - 2) If so, why?

#### **Answer:**

- a) Two consultancies have been undertaken since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September 2015 as follows:

Consultant Name	Subject Matter	Cost	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Method of Procurement	Justification
Cogent Business Solutions Pty Ltd	Budget Review	\$72,091.00	14/09/2015	31/10/2015	Open Tender	Need for specialised or professional skills
David Tune	Strategic Advice and Review Services	\$198,000.00	7/12/2015	31/03/2016	Limited Tender	Need for independent research or assessment
	Total Value:	\$270,091.00				

- b) There are no consultancies planned for this calendar year. Consultancies are not generally published in the department's Annual Procurement Plan as the need for specialist services does not become apparent until specific issues or business needs are identified. The details of all consultancy contracts valued at \$10,000 and over are reported on the Government's AusTender website. The total expenditure of the department's consultancy contracts is also reported in its Annual Report at the conclusion of each financial year.
- c) The second consultancy detailed in the response to part (a) did not go out to open tender. The consultancy was established to allow the department to comply with the requirements of a Functional and Efficiency Review (the Review) as part of the Government's Contestability Programme. The requirements of the Review included specific criteria for appointing a Review Leader as well as defined timeframe for the department to complete the Review.