

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome

Question No: 961

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?

i. If so, which ones and why?

Answer:

Department of Social Services

Yes. During the period 28 February – 04 June 2014, a number of consultancy contracts were not undertaken via a new Open Tender process. The majority of the arrangements were undertaken using existing panel arrangements or were valued lower than the *Commonwealth Procurement Rules* (CPRs) thresholds for undertaking an open tender. One met the conditions for limited tender and the other was Exempt in accordance with Appendix A of the CPRs.

A listing of the Department's contracts (including consultancies) valued at \$10,000 or more is publicly available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au). It includes the name of the consultant, the duration and cost of the arrangement, the nature of the duties performed and the method of procurement.

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Yes. During the period 28 February – 31 May 2014, a number of consultancy contracts were not undertaken via an open tender process. These arrangements were valued lower than the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs) thresholds for undertaking open tender or were otherwise consistent with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs).

A listing of the Department's contracts (including consultancies) valued at \$10,000 or more is publicly available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au). It includes the name of the consultant, the duration and cost of the arrangement, the nature of the duties performed and the method of procurement.

Office of the Aged Care Pricing Commissioner

Yes. During the period 28 February – 04 June 2014, two consultancies were not undertaken through an open tender process. These arrangements were valued lower than the *Commonwealth Procurement Rules* threshold for undertaking an open tender.

National Disability Insurance Agency

Yes. During the period 28 February to 4 June 2014, a number of consultancy contracts were not undertaken via an open tender process. However, all of the arrangements were entered into utilising existing general panels or Multi-use list arrangements available to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), or were lower than the NDIA policy threshold for approaching the open market (\$400,000 GST inclusive). The NDIA is a non-prescribed agency under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.