

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 190(b)

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/16

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

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

1. 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 (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. 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.
3. Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
 - (a) List each, including name, cost and purpose
 - (b) If so, why?

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Answer:

1. For the period 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016, the ABC spent \$1,840,642 on consultancies, broken down as follows:

Consultant	Purpose of Consultancy	Total \$
Below \$10,000		
Various	Various	74,354
Sub total		74,354
\$10,000-\$50,000		
Atlas Group Cost Management Pty Ltd	Technical advice	10,500
Leadership Advisory Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	14,502
J McCarthy	Strategic advice	25,000
P Cavanagh	Editorial Review	25,000
^Stancombe Research & Planning Pty Ltd	International development projects	29,570
Ray Martin Media Pty Ltd	Editorial Review	30,000
Neoteny Service Design	Technical advice	38,250
Trevor-Roberts Associates	Career advice	48,100
Subtotal		220,922
Above \$50,000		
S Brown	Editorial Review	62,400
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Finance, tax and other advisory services	66,791
Askew Associates Pty Ltd	Risk assessment and analysis	72,993
Cast Professional Services Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	281,267
L.E.K Consulting	Strategic advice	1,061,915
Sub total		1,545,366
Grand total		1,840,642
^ These items relate to international development projects funded by AusAID		

Consultancies that are capitalised as part of an asset recorded in the balance sheet are excluded from the list above.

It is not practical to determine the duration of the above consultancies. The ABC's procurement policy, which complies with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, was applied to the above consultancies. Contracts in excess of \$100k but less than \$400k typically require a request for quote (RFQ) process, whilst those contracts less than \$100k typically require three or more quotes.

2. The ABC does not plan individual consultancies as such and cannot give an estimate of the likely number of consultants that may be engaged between now and 31 December 2016.
Further, The ABC is not a prescribed agency subject to section 30 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*, and as such, is not permitted access to the APP functionality within AusTender.
3. Consultancies went out to tender in accordance with the procurement policy outlined in the ABC's response to question 1.