

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

National Cultural Institutions

Question No: 83

National Cultural Institutions

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Shared Services

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

- (a) What progress has been made?
- (b) What services are now provided centrally?
- (c) What services are proposed to be provided centrally in this year 2015-16, and 2016-17. What are the savings to your institution?
- (d) Are you required to make a contribution to the operation of the shared services facility?

National Cultural Institutions

- Australian National Maritime Museum
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Library of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- National Portrait Gallery
- The Museum of Australian Democracy

Answer:

The Australian National Maritime Museum is not required to utilise Shared Services. The Budget decision applies to the Canberra-based National Collecting Institutions and to the National Australian Archives.

National Film and Sound Archive

- (a) Payroll and records management were transferred to the Attorney-General's Department during 2014-15.
- (b) Payroll and records management are currently provided by the Attorney-General's Department
- (c) 2015-16 – see answer to b. In 2016-17 payroll will be provided outside of the NFSA. There are no savings.

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- (d) Yes. Total cost for 2015-16 is estimated to be \$119,468.99.

National Gallery of Australia

- (a) The National Gallery of Australia was previously included in the Attorney-General's Department Shared Services Initiative.

This initiative with the Attorney-General's Department effectively ceased at a meeting on 27 July. The Attorney General's Department indicated to be a net 'user' of shared services rather than a 'provider' of shared services and will not be providing shared services to the cultural institutions yet to transition.

Following this decision, the National Gallery of Australia is awaiting the further development and maturity of the Shared Services market before making an informed decision on how best to proceed. The current suite of Shared Service providers are not appropriate for the National Gallery of Australia and it will take further time for this market to develop. At the appropriate time, we will develop a business case to support retaining the services in house or look at a provider.

- (b) None.
(c) None.
(d) No.

National Library of Australia

- (a) The Library is a Corporate Commonwealth entity and is therefore not bound by the more general shared service initiatives across the Commonwealth. As part of a 2014-15 Budget measure, certain corporate back office functions of the Library were to be undertaken by the Service Centre within the Attorney-General's Department. The Library continues to undertake these services as the Attorney-General's Department will not be a provider of these types of services. Longer term arrangements will be subject to ongoing review.
- (b) N/A.
(c) N/A.
(d) N/A.

National Museum of Australia

- (a) The Museum is a Corporate Entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. The Shared and Common Service program only applies to Non-Corporate agencies. Implementation of the 2014 Budget Measure *Smaller Government - collection agencies – consolidation of back office functions* was suspended due to the original provider, Attorney-General's Department, deciding to purchase services rather than provide a shared services function.

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- (b) The Museum supports its own functions covered by the Shared and Common Services Program.
- (c) N/A.
- (d) N/A.

National Portrait Gallery

- (a) In January 2015 the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) transitioned into shared services arrangements with the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) as required by the 2014-15 Budget Measure, *collection agencies – consolidation of back office functions*.
- (b) The services provided by the AGD include:
 - Desktop and network support
 - Payroll processing
 - Accounts processing
 - Records management
 - Corporate systems hosting and administration.
- (c) NPG expects the services currently provided by AGD will continue to be provided in 2015-16 and 2016-17 by another provider with AGD electing not to provide shared services from 30 June 2016.
The NPG provided savings of \$80,000 per year ongoing as part of the 2014-15 Budget Measure, *collection agencies – consolidation of back office functions*.
- (d) Future costs are unknown at this stage with the NPG currently scoping new providers.

The Museum of Australian Democracy

- (a) Old Parliament House has utilised Shared Services since agency establishment in 2008.
- (b) ICT, Payroll, Records Management.
- (c) ICT, Payroll, Records Management, no savings for those years expected as it is a continuation of the current arrangement. Old Parliament House will require another transition with set up costs of approximately \$250,000.
- (d) No, on a fee for service arrangement.

Bundanon Trust

- (a) Due to Bundanon's decentralised location no opportunities currently exist.
- (b) N/A.
- (c) N/A.
- (d) N/A.