

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 655

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Building Lease Costs

Senator Ludwig asked:

What has been the total cost of building leases for the Department/Agency since 25 February 2014?

1. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased. Please detail by:
 - a. Date the lease agreement is active from.
 - b. Date the lease agreement ends.
 - c. Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?
 - d. Location of the building (City and state).
 - e. Cost of the lease.
 - f. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the Department/Agency.
2. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed since 25 February 2014. Please detail by:
 - a. Date from which the lease agreement was active.
 - b. Date the lease agreement ended.
 - c. Why was the lease not renewed?
 - d. Location of the building (City and state).
 - e. Cost of the lease.
 - f. Why the building was necessary for the operations of the Department/Agency.
3. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months. Please detail by:
 - a. Date the lease agreement is expected to become active.
 - b. Date the lease agreement is expected to end.
 - c. Expected location of the building (City and state).
 - d. Expected cost of the lease. Has this cost been allocated into the budget?
 - e. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the Department/Agency.
4. For each building owned or leased by the Department:
 - a. What is the current occupancy rate for the building?
 - b. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.

Answer:

The Department's financial expenses are recorded on an accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.

1. Total building lease expenses for the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 was \$1,503,140.62 (GST excl).

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Lease Address (d)	Lease Start (a)	Lease End (b)	Renewal (c)	Lease expenses 1/2/2014 to 30/4/2014 (e)	Use (f)
38 Sydney Avenue Forrest ACT 2603	22-Nov-12	21-Nov-17	Yes	\$1,227,001.66	Office accommodation
44 Sydney Avenue Suite 2 Level 1 Forrest ACT 2603	1-Aug-03	31-Jul-14	Yes	\$197,812.60	Office accommodation
44 Sydney Avenue Suite 3 Level 1 Forrest ACT 2603	1-Oct-10	31-Jul-14	Yes		Office accommodation
Level 18, St Martins Tower 31 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000	1-Sep-09	30-Jun-14	Yes	\$13,863.12	Office accommodation
122-124 Gladstone St Fyshwick ACT	1-May-14	30-Apr-17	Yes	\$11,416.28	Warehouse/storage facility

2. Nil

3.

Address (c)	Lease Start (a)	Lease End (b)	Expected Lease cost (d)	Within agency budget (e)	Use (f)
Level 18, St Martins Tower 31 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000	1-Jul-14	30-Jun-17	\$1,204,000	Yes	Office accommodation
44 Sydney Avenue Suite 2 Level 1 Forrest ACT 2603	1-Aug-14	31-Jul-15	\$709,500	Yes	Office accommodation
44 Sydney Avenue Suite 3 Level 1 Forrest ACT 2603	1-Aug-14	31-Jul-15		Yes	Office accommodation

4. The Department does not record this data in a way that would readily allow for this information to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.