

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 97

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken from 25 February 2014 to date? 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? If so, which ones and why?

Answer:

1. For the period of 25 Feb 2014 to 30 June 2014, the ABC spent \$2,096,477.49 on consultancies, broken down as follows below:

Mercer Consulting Pty Ltd	Technical advice	26,595
Wilson, Emma	Strategic advice	27,200
Bates Smart Architects Pty Ltd	Technical advice	29,073
Salinger Consulting Pty Ltd	Technical advice	30,000
Brown, Shaun	Strategic advice	31,808
^Stacombe Research & Planning Pty Ltd	International development projects	35,339
Butcher & Co Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	39,190
Gartner Australasia Pty Limited	Technical advice	43,519
Subtotal		525,926
Above \$50,000		
MediaXchange Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	50,576
2nd Road Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	62,539
James Goth Consulting Pty Ltd	Efficiency Review	81,183
Cast Professional Services Pty Ltd	Efficiency Review	118,900
Stamford Interactive	Technical advice	135,194
McGees Property Pty Ltd	Property valuation services	173,866
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Strategic advice	258,010
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Finance, tax and other advisory services	584,920
Sub total		1,465,188
Grand total		2,096,479

^ These items relate to international development projects funded by AusAID

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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 \$100,000 but less than \$400,000 typically require a request for quote (RFQ) process, whilst those contracts less than \$100,000 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 2014.

The ABC is not a prescribed agency subject to section 47A of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, 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 Question 1, above.