

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Cross Portfolio - Shared Services Centre

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000287

Senator Ludwig, Joe provided in writing

Building Lease Costs

Question

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

1. What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department?
2. 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 agency / department.
3. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed during the specified period. 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 agency / department.
4. 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.
 - (i). Has this cost been allocated into the budget?
 - (e) Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.
5. 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

- 1) Total lease costs for the department for the period 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 were \$ 12,365,492
- 2) See Attachment A – these buildings are leased to meet current business operations.
- 3) See Attachment A – these properties are no longer required for business operations.
- 4) The department is not currently planning to enter into new leases for buildings in the next 12 months.
- 5) The occupancy rate varies depending on location and outcomes of the most recent Machinery of Government changes. The average occupancy across properties leased by the department is 76 per cent. The department is continuing to rationalise space and is subleasing some office space while seeking subleasing opportunities for others.