

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0226_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Building lease costs

What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department since Additional Estimates in 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 agency / department. 2. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed since Additional Estimates in 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 agency / department. 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. e. Has this cost been allocated into the budget? f. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department. 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

Staff in the Department of Employment are accommodated in properties leased by the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Arrangements between the Department of Employment and the Department of Education following the Machinery of Government changes are being finalised. Accordingly, it is not possible to attribute building lease costs to the Department of Employment at this stage.

Please refer to previous question EM0366_14 for details of leases held by the former DEEWR and its agencies. The leases over Hasting and Victoria Streets, Thursday Island and 516 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba have expired since Additional Estimates, February 2014 and were not renewed.