

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency

Department of Employment Question No. EM0227_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

ASEA - 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

1. The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency operated under a hosting arrangement with the Department of Employment in relation to accommodation and does not have a direct building lease. The location of the buildings in which ASEA is hosted is 255 Elizabeth St, Sydney, NSW and 12 Mort St, Canberra, ACT. This is to provide workstations for ASEA staff.

This hosting arrangement included a range of costs associated with accommodating the Agency's staff, including costs associated with lease administration and facilities management, operational work points for staff, payment of taxes and utilities, physical security, waste management, use of amenities, ICT services, mail, freight and courier services, emergency services, IT security services, as well as printers and fax machines.

This hosting agreement was finalised on the 3 July, 2014. The Agency is unable to provide a cost for the accommodation only. To do so would require an unreasonable diversion of resources. The costs for these building leases are covered under EM0226_15.

2. Nil.
3. Nil.
4. The Agency does not yet have data to provide an occupancy rate.