

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM0565_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWO - Consultancies

a) How many consultancies have been undertaken from Additional Estimates in 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. b) 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. c) Have any consultancies not gone out for tender? i. If so, which ones and why?

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has engaged 14 consultancies that have undertaken work during the period 1 March – 31 May 2014.

The Fair Work Ombudsman engages consultancies in order to achieve our planned priorities. Consultancies are generally used for independent review work and advice, training or to undertake tasks where the skills required are not available in-house.

All vendors were engaged in accordance with Commonwealth Procurement rules and the Fair Work Ombudsman Procurement Policy. All consultancies engaged by the Fair Work Ombudsman are accommodated within existing budgets and the agency will continue to do this in appropriate situations and in accordance with the agency's Procurement Policy.

All contracts with the Fair Work Ombudsman's over \$10,000 are published on the AusTender website.

The details of the consultancies engaged are provided in the table below:

Consultant	Subject matter	Date/ Duration	Cost (incl. GST)
Grey Advantage Consulting Pty Ltd	Administration services review	May 14 – Jun 14	\$33,000
Ernst and Young	Review of Fair Work Ombudsman's internal governance	Mar 14 – Jun 14	\$96,800
U1 Group	Useability Testing of Website visual design	Jan 14 – Mar 14	\$22,467.50
Sweeney Research Pty Ltd	Series of national focus groups with small business owners on general workplace relations matters to better tailor our products and services to this group	Apr 14 – Jun 14	\$53,313
Reading Room Australia Pty Ltd	Online client booking project	Mar 14 – Jun 14	\$38,500
Instinct & Reason	Evaluation of Fair Work Ombudsman's client experience	May 14 – Jun 14	\$66,000
Instinct & Reason	Request for assistance concept development	Apr 14 – Jun 14	\$37,500 + \$5000 optional travel expenditure
The Inside Story Knowledge Management	Hair Industry Review project	Mar 14 – Jun 14	\$59,400
360 HR	Specialist development of content for online learning module	Apr 14 – Jun 14	\$11,880
Effective People	Specialist development of content for online learning module	Apr 14 – Jun 14	\$22,253
Diversity Partners	Specialist development of content for online learning module	Apr 14 – June 14	\$18,700
The Consulting Space	Advanced Client Service Skills training	Apr 14 - Jun 14	\$36,000
Bianca Keys Consulting	Advanced Mediation Skills training	Mar 14 - Apr 14	\$6,687.69
Communicorp	Resilience Skills training	May 14 - July 14	\$41,113.40