

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM1272_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Disability Access

1. Please provide a list of all premises owned, leased or otherwise operated by the department / agency which do not yet comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (through The Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010). For each, please provide: 2. The year in which it was purchased / leased / rented (and if lease / rental agreement, when it expires). 3. What plans are in place to make the premises compliant with the act. 4. When these plans will commence and when they are expected to be complete. 5. Has the minister or the minister's office been informed of these plans? Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) between the minister's office and the department regarding this issue. 6. What is the expected cost of making the premises compliant? Please break down the costs. 7. Have any plans to make any premises compliant been cancelled, put on hold or delayed since September 7, 2013? If yes, please detail, including the reasons for which they were cancelled, put on hold or delayed and how the decision was reached. 8. Have any complaints been lodged with regard to the premises not being compliant? If yes, please detail. "

Answer

The department shares a lease with the Department of Education on a property at 250 St Georges Terrace, Perth that does not yet comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. The lease commenced on 1 April 2003 and expires on 31 March 2016.

The lessor has advised that funding is in place to develop an action plan and commence upgrading areas to current standards. The department has not yet had confirmation of a date on when this will occur. The costs to upgrade the property is unknown.

There has been no communication with the Minister or the Minister's office about these plans. No plans have been cancelled, put on hold or delayed since 7 September 2013 and no complaints have been lodged to the department's knowledge.