

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Cross Portfolio – Shared Services Centre

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000880

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing.

CN3287771 titled “Indoor Plant Hire 50 Marcus Clarke ACT 2015 Pending Request for Tender”

Question

In relation to contract number CN3287771 titled “Indoor Plant Hire 50 Marcus Clarke ACT 2015 Pending Request for Tender”:

- a. Is it correct that this contract is a stop-gap to cover the period between the expiration of the previous contract with Living Simply, pending the conclusion of the procurement process for this service?
- b. Is it correct that this contract for \$43,600 is to cover the period contained in the tender information on Austender, of 20 August 2015 to 31 December 2015?
- c. So this is a 4-month contract – meaning the Department is spending \$11,000 a month for the provision of pot plants?
- d. Where is the procurement process for this service up to? Is it an open tender or will it be a single select tender process to continue with Living Simply?
- e. When will the tender process for this service conclude? How much has the Department budgeted for this service? For how many years will this next contract be for?
- f. Will this contract just cover Canberra-based offices? Which offices will be covered by this contract? How many plants are needed?
- g. Is this an area where the Department has identified savings?
- h. Will the plants be native or exotic?

Answer

In relation to contract number CN3287771 titled “Indoor Plant Hire 50 Marcus Clarke ACT 2015 Pending Request for Tender”:

- a. No. This contract covers part of the period between the expiration of the previous contract pending the outcome of an open market tender exercise from June 2015 to September 2015. The previous purchase order (contract) covered the period February 2015 – May 2015.
- b. No. This contract for \$43,600 was to cover the period from June 2015 to September 2015. 20 August is the date the contract was raised.
- c. The monthly cost of indoor plant hire for the Department is \$10,500.00 which includes 12 living walls that were installed in early 2010.
- d. and e. The procurement process for this service is complete. A provider has been selected by open market tender, and a new contract commenced on 1 December 2015. The value of the contract is \$378,000 over 3 years with 2 x 1 year extension options.
- f. This contract covers National Office Canberra. The number of plants needed is 548 including 12 living walls.

g. Yes. The outcome of the new tender process has identified a saving of six per cent in comparison to the previous contract.

h. The plants are exotic.