

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: CDEP - assets

Senator: Senator Cory Bernardi

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Question:

CHAIR: Are you satisfied that all the assets from CDEP have been accounted for?

Ms Gumley: I am. I think we have had a careful, considered process in looking at the asset transfer, and we also did quite a lot of preparation work with the CDEP organisations prior to RJCP starting. Part of that was about making sure that the asset registers et cetera were all up to date and that everything had been properly accounted for. If you have specific details where there might be a particular instance that we could look at again—

CHAIR: I wish I did, Ms Gumley, I wish I did. But I do not.

The original documentation said that six months would be given to allow for a smooth transition, I understand. And yet I am also advised that the successful tenderers were not announced until May and June of this year, with a start of early July 2013. Is that correct and, if so, why was the process delayed?

Ms Gumley: It was not actually a tender process, it was an expression-of-interest process. That selection process took longer than expected. I think our first announcements were in April and the last announcements were in June. It is the case that they were progressively announced, so some providers had an earlier start to prepare and get ready. But there were also some transition support arrangements put in place with CDEP organisations extended in locations for a couple of months. That also enabled the RJCP providers some extra time to set up.

CHAIR: How many of the bidders—and I do not want to get caught about semantics here, that is my terminology—organisations which put in expressions of interest, received less than one month's notice of the transfer?

Ms Kemp: We will take that on notice

Answer:

Twenty-three organisations across seven of the 60 remote regions were announced less than one month before the commencement of the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme.