

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2011
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Question No: 443

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Departmental Expenditure

Senator Birmingham asked:

Provide details on expenditure for the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on the following (2010-11):

- a. Advertising
- b. Travel (including breakdown: of business versus economy, domestic versus international)
- c. Hospitality and Entertainment
- d. ICT
- e. Consultancy
- f. Education/Training to Staff
- g. External Accounting
- h. External Auditing
- i. External Legal
- j. Memberships or grants paid to affiliate organisations

Answer:

For the purpose of answering the question, the Department has included Departmental expense data from its financial management information system that best aligns with the ten expense categories shown in the question. The respective definitions are at attachment A.

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The total expenditure for the 2010-11 financial year for the Department is shown in the table below:

	2010-11 \$'000
a) Advertising	353.3
b) Travel	2,438.7
<i>Domestic Travel</i>	<i>2,031.5</i>
<i>Overseas Travel</i>	<i>407.2</i>
<i>Economy</i>	<i>597.5</i>
<i>Business Class</i>	<i>254.6</i>
c) Hospitality	12.9
d) Information and Communication Technology	6,801.2
e) Consultants	12,910.8
f) Education/Training to Staff	1,350.2
g) External Accounting ¹	
h) External Auditing	360.0
i) External Legal	3,683.8
j) Memberships or Grants paid to Affiliate Organisations	130.1

¹ Data not available.

Definitions

Advertising	<i>Expenses relating to advertising organisations, including recruitment advertising, production costs and advertising agency contract hours. Excludes expenses relating to promotional material, public relations, market research and direct mail.</i>
Travel	<i>Expenses relating to flights, accommodation, travel allowances, taxi fares and parking costs both domestic and international. Excludes expenses relating to Committee Member Travel and travel provider contract fees.</i>
Hospitality	<i>Expenses relating to official hospitality, catering, and provision of meals to staff working outside the department's bandwidth hours.</i>
Information and Communication Technology	<i>Expenses relating to website development and maintenance, telephone services, call charges (including mobile phones, internet services and connection fees), minor computer equipment purchases, software license fees, software maintenance and minor software purchases. Excludes costs relating to information and communication technology which meets the department's capitalisation criteria.</i>
Consultants	<i>Expenses relating to consultant fees and reimbursable costs.</i>
Education/Training to Staff	<i>Expenses relating to staff training (both internal and external) and associated costs, seminars, conferences, study bank and Fringe Benefits Tax, where incurred.</i>
External Auditing	<i>Expenses relating to the audit of the department's Annual Financial Statements (conducted by the Australian National Audit Office).</i>
External Legal	<i>Expenses relating to legal services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor or other external legal services providers. Excludes expenses relating to legal claims and compensation paid as a result of legal proceedings.</i>
Memberships or Grants paid to Affiliate Organisations	<i>Expenses relating to professional memberships and subscriptions.</i>

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Question No: 444

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Departmental Offices

Senator Birmingham asked:

Provide a further breakdown of the above expenditure for each Group within the department:

- a. Advertising
- b. Travel (including breakdown: of business versus economy, domestic versus international)
- c. Hospitality and Entertainment
- d. ICT
- e. Consultancy
- f. Education/Training to Staff
- g. External Accounting
- h. External Auditing
- i. External Legal
- j. Memberships or grants paid to affiliate organisations

Answer:

For the purpose of answering the question, the Department has included Departmental expense data from its financial management information system that best aligns with the ten expense categories shown in the question. The respective definitions are at attachment A. Overheads have been distributed on the same basis as used in the production of certain tables in the Portfolio Budget Statements.

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The total expenditure for the 2010-11 financial year for each program within the department is shown in the table below:

	Program 1.1 \$'000	Program 1.2 \$'000	Program 1.3 \$'000
a) Advertising	7.3	28.2	317.8
b) Travel	295.5	1,191.7	951.5
<i>Domestic Travel</i>	289.8	790.5	951.1
<i>Overseas Travel</i>	5.7	401.2	0.4
<i>Economy</i> ¹			
<i>Business Class</i> ¹			
c) Hospitality	4.0	8.1	0.7
d) Information and Communication Technology	1,656.1	3,040.1	2,105.1
e) Consultants	7,058.4	3,688.1	2,164.4
f) Education/Training to Staff	361.5	626.6	362.0
g) External Accounting ¹			
h) External Auditing	87.8	165.9	106.3
i) External Legal	2,066.1	999.4	618.2
j) Memberships or Grants paid to Affiliate Organisations	16.6	90.6	23.0

¹ Data not available

Definitions

Advertising	<i>Expenses relating to advertising organisations, including recruitment advertising, production costs and advertising agency contract hours. Excludes expenses relating to promotional material, public relations, market research and direct mail.</i>
Travel	<i>Expenses relating to flights, accommodation, travel allowances, taxi fares and parking costs both domestic and international. Excludes expenses relating to Committee Member Travel and travel provider contract fees.</i>
Hospitality	<i>Expenses relating to official hospitality, catering, and provision of meals to staff working outside the department's bandwidth hours.</i>
Information and Communication Technology	<i>Expenses relating to website development and maintenance, telephone services, call charges (including mobile phones, internet services and connection fees), minor computer equipment purchases, software license fees, software maintenance and minor software purchases. Excludes costs relating to information and communication technology which meets the department's capitalisation criteria.</i>
Consultants	<i>Expenses relating to consultant fees and reimbursable costs.</i>
Education/Training to Staff	<i>Expenses relating to staff training (both internal and external) and associated costs, seminars, conferences, study bank and Fringe Benefits Tax, where incurred.</i>
External Auditing	<i>Expenses relating to the audit of the department's Annual Financial Statements (conducted by the Australian National Audit Office).</i>
External Legal	<i>Expenses relating to legal services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor or other external legal services providers. Excludes expenses relating to legal claims and compensation paid as a result of legal proceedings.</i>
Memberships or Grants paid to Affiliate Organisations	<i>Expenses relating to professional memberships and subscriptions.</i>

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Question No: 445

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Departmental Offices

Senator Birmingham asked:

Within each divisional area, provide a further breakdown of expenditure under each Assistant Secretary:

- a. Advertising
- b. Travel (including breakdown: of business versus economy, domestic versus international)
- c. Hospitality and Entertainment
- d. ICT
- e. Consultancy
- f. Education/Training to Staff
- g. External Accounting
- h. External Auditing
- i. External Legal
- j. Memberships or grants paid to affiliate organisations

Answer:

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For the purpose of answering the question, the Department has included Departmental expense data from its financial management information system that best aligns with the ten expense categories shown in the question. The respective definitions are at attachment A. Overheads have been distributed on the same basis as used in the production of certain tables in the Portfolio Budget Statements.

The total expenditure for the 2010-11 financial year for each branch within the department is shown in the table below:

	NBN Shareholder & Policy \$'000	USO Co \$'000	NBN & Fibre Rollout Regulation \$'000	Networks Regulation \$'000	Australian Broadband Guarantee \$'000	Spectrum & Wireless Services \$'000	Consumer Policy & Post \$'000	Regional & Indigenous Communications \$'000	Digital Initiatives \$'000	Research & Statistics \$'000
a) Advertising	0.4	3.0	0.4	0.2	0.1		0.2	0.9		
b) Travel	77.5	13.9	19.5	59.6	63.9	215.8	89.3	145.6	250.1	2.2
<i>Domestic Travel</i>	76.6	13.7	19.1	56.3	59.2	67.5	53.4	112.0	215.7	1.7
<i>Overseas Travel</i>	0.8	0.2	0.3	3.2	4.7	148.4	36.0	33.5	34.3	0.4
<i>Economy¹</i>										
<i>Business Class¹</i>										
c) Hospitality		0.7			3.0	3.5	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.0
d) Information and Communication Technology	2.0	2.6		3.1	107.1	10.1	8.0	27.4	26.1	0.1
e) Consultants	2,496.9	3,677.8		286.2	447.6	531.7	2.5	148.1	1,919.8	459.6
f) Education/Training to Staff	61.1	3.4	7.2	20.7	55.0	15.1	16.2	28.9	76.7	0.3
g) External Accounting ¹										
h) External Auditing										
i) External Legal	231.9	1,293.5	0.4		0.1	46.2				
j) Memberships or Grants paid to Affiliate Organisations	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.7	1.8	2.3	3.0	3.3	2.7	0.1

¹ Data not available

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	Digital Economy & Convergence Strategy \$'000	Cyber Security & Asia-Pacific Engagement \$'000	Cyber-Safety & Trade \$'000	Information Technology & Support Services \$'000	People \$'000	Parliamentary Governance & Coordination \$'000	Communication and Media \$'000	Broadcasting & Switchover Policy \$'000	National Community & Radio Broadcasting \$'000	Technical Implementation \$'000
a) Advertising	4.2	16.0	0.7	2.0	1.8	0.0	9.8	0.4	77.7	55.9
b) Travel	93.6	107.4	127.9	81.3	73.6	22.7	129.6	34.4	71.6	321.4
<i>Domestic Travel</i>	78.8	71.5	48.2	79.5	72.1	20.7	128.4	34.0	71.0	319.0
<i>Overseas Travel</i>	14.8	35.9	79.7	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.2	0.4	0.6	2.4
<i>Economy</i> ¹										
<i>Business Class</i> ¹										
c) Hospitality	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.1	0.8		0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
d) Information and Communication Technology	32.7	19.3	12.0	5,749.5	130.4	91.1	16.9	3.3	7.4	136.1
e) Consultants	288.3	55.6	47.8	106.5	49.6	273.6	12.3	3.8	5.4	1,673.1
f) Education/Training to Staff	40.7	26.0	19.6	50.1	661.5	37.9	26.5	10.5	7.8	48.7
g) External Accounting ¹										
h) External Auditing										
i) External Legal										
j) Memberships or Grants paid to Affiliate Organisations	47.4	3.3	3.2	1.8	3.8	17.6	5.5	0.5	0.7	3.3

¹ Data not available.

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	Digital Switchover Household Assistance \$'000	Finance \$'000	Legal Services \$'000
a) Advertising	177.8	1.3	0.5
b) Travel	413.4	12.8	11.8
<i>Domestic Travel</i>	411.4	11.1	10.4
<i>Overseas Travel</i>	2.0	1.8	1.4
<i>Economy</i> ¹			
<i>Business Class</i> ¹			
c) Hospitality	0.3		
d) Information and Communication Technology	85.5	259.3	70.9
e) Consultants	332.7	61.9	29.9
f) Education/Training to Staff	37.8	58.9	39.5
g) External Accounting ¹			
h) External Auditing		360.0	
i) External Legal	8.0		2,103.6
j) Memberships or Grants paid to Affiliate Organisations	3.6	7.1	16.5

¹ Data not available.

Definitions

Advertising	<i>Expenses relating to advertising organisations, including recruitment advertising, production costs and advertising agency contract hours. Excludes expenses relating to promotional material, public relations, market research and direct mail.</i>
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Consultants	<i>Expenses relating to consultant fees and reimbursable costs.</i>
Education/Training to Staff	<i>Expenses relating to staff training (both internal and external) and associated costs, seminars, conferences, study bank and Fringe Benefits Tax, where incurred.</i>
External Auditing	<i>Expenses relating to the audit of the department's Annual Financial Statements (conducted by the Australian National Audit Office).</i>
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Question No: 446

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Forward Estimates for Programs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Please provide a breakdown over the forward estimates of each departmental program and activity including:
 - a. program title;
 - b. program summary;
 - c. is the program ongoing, lapsing, or terminating;
 - d. breakdown of administered and departmental costs; program staffing numbers and location?
2. Are there any cross-portfolio programs within your Department?
3. What are the titles of these cross-portfolio programs and what departments/agencies are involved?
4. What is the expenditure breakdown of the cross-portfolio programs (e.g. administered and departmental costs)?

Answer:

Please refer to Parliamentary Question on Notice SQON1253 that addresses this question.

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Question No: 447

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many consultancies were undertaken in 2010-11? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
- b. Were there any changes to any of the portfolio's tenders in 2010-11? Detail any changes
- c. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway this FYTD? 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). Please also include total value for all consultancies.
- d. Does each department and agency stand by its current tenders on the Austenders website? Have any changes or corrections been made for any tenders advertised on to Government Tenders website (www.tenders.gov.au) for tenders advertised this financial year? Explain. Are up to date with reporting requirements?
- e. 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.

Answer:

- a. Details of the department's consultancies valued in excess of \$10 000 are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au). Furthermore, the department's Annual Reports contain additional information regarding consultancies, including expenditure details. The Annual Report 2010-11 is available on the department's website at: (www.dbcde.gov.au/about_us/annual_reports/annual_report_2010-11)

While AusTender and the Annual Report contain details of contracts valued at \$10 000 or more, it is considered to be an unreasonable diversion of resources for the department to provide details of consultancies valued at less than \$10 000.

- b. Yes, changes and corrections have been made to advertised tenders this financial year. These changes and modifications have been made in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines and have been published to AusTender ensuring all potential suppliers have been provided the same information at the same time. The department has always ensured that there is adequate time for all potential suppliers to address the changes before submissions are due.

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- c. See response for a).
- d. Yes, the department stands by its current tenders. Yes, changes and corrections have been made to advertised tenders this financial year. These changes and modifications have been made in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines and have been published to AusTender ensuring all potential suppliers have been provided the same information at the same time. The department has always ensured that there is adequate time for all potential suppliers to address the changes before submissions are due. Yes, the department is up to date with reporting requirements.
- e. See response for a). In accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, the department's Annual Procurement Plan is published on the AusTender website and consists of a short strategic procurement outlook supported by details of planned strategic and major procurements.

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Question No: 448

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Contractors

Senator Fisher asked:

Since May 2011:

1. Has the department ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.
2. Has the department ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details.
3. Has the department ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.
4. Has the department ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.
5. Has the department ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.
6. Has the department ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.
7. Has the department ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.
8. Has the department ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.
9. Has the department ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

1. The department has not engaged Hawker Britton during this period and has no plans for future engagement.
2. The department has not engaged Shannon's Way during this period and has no plans for future engagement.
3. The department has not engaged John Utting & UMR Research Group during this period and has no plans for future engagement.

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4. The department has not engaged McCann-Erickson during this period and has no plans for future engagement.
5. The department has not engaged Cutting Edge during this period and has no plans for future engagement.
6. The department has not engaged Ikon Communications during this period and has no plans for future engagement.
7. The department has not engaged CMAX Communications during this period and has no plans for future engagement.
8. The department has not engaged Boston Consulting Group during this period and has no plans for future engagement.
9. On 27 October 2011, the department engaged McKinsey & Company to provide advice and assistance with regard to the design of elements of the Digital Productivity Package. The engagement was undertaken with an amendment to an established contract.

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Question No: 449

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for the year 2010-11? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
- b. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants FYTD? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
- c. Has the department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answer:

- a. Since 1 January 2009, all grants, discretionary and non-discretionary, made by the department have been published on the departmental website at **www.dbcde.gov.au**.
- b. Refer to answer a.
- c. Refer to answer for Question on Notice 143 (2), Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2010.

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Question No: 450

Program No: CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. For the year 2010-11 did the department paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)
- b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- c. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is the rate determined.

Answer:

- a. For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, 7023 payments were made of which 6311 or 90% were made within 30 days of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. The average number of days for all payments was 20 days.
- b. In line with Finance Circular No 2008/10, interest is payable to small business where ‘the amount of interest is more than \$10 and the contractor has issued a correctly rendered invoice for the interest’. No invoices have been received and no interest has been paid.
- c. Not applicable.

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Question No: 451

Program No: CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. For the FYTD has the department paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)
- b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- c. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is the rate determined.

Answer:

- a. For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011, 2663 payments were made of which 2390 or 90% were made within 30 days of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. The average number of days for all payments was 18 days.
- b. In line with Finance Circular No 2008/10, interest is payable to small business where ‘the amount of interest is more than \$10 and the contractor has issued a correctly rendered invoice for the interest’. No invoices have been received and no interest has been paid.
- c. Not applicable.

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Question No: 452

Program No: CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Credit Cards

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many staff in the department have a corporate credit card? What is their classification?
- b. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
- c. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
- d. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
- e. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
- f. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

- a. There are 251 active cardholders in the department. An official is eligible for a corporate credit card where the official:
 - is an SES officer;
 - purchases property or services on behalf of the department;
 - travels on official business on behalf of the department; or
 - is an officer who books travel on behalf of travellers.
- b. All misuse of corporate credit cards is discussed with the relevant departmental officer initially and, where necessary, the officer's supervisor. An assessment is then undertaken to determine if the misuse is fraud, in line with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines 2011. Recommendations for an appropriate course of action are made on a case-by-case basis. All instances of credit card misuse are reported in the department's Financial Management and Accountability (FMA) certificate of compliance.
- c. There is a program of regular audits on credit card usage undertaken by the department's internal audit provider. Any findings are reported to the individual, their Supervisor and the CFO for appropriate action. In addition, all credit card transactions require supervisor review on a monthly basis in the department's expense management system.
- d. See response for b.

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e. In the 2010-11 financial year, there were 12 instances of misuse of a credit card.

In each of these instances, the following action was taken:

- officers were given refresher training and reminded of the correct usage of the departmental Credit Card,
- an invoice was issued and all monies were fully recovered; and
- the misuse was reported and included in the department's FMA certificate of compliance.

There was a total of 12 instances of credit card misuse in the department for financial year 2010-11, representing less than 0.0008% of the department's total credit card transactions.

There were five instances where a corporate credit card was used for coincidental private expenditure. The monies have been re-paid.

There were seven instances where a corporate credit card was accidentally used for the payment of personal purchases. The monies have been re-paid.

f. Prevention of corporate credit card misuse is managed through a combination of procedures and system controls. These include:

- all card holders are required to acknowledge that they have read and understood the Practical Guide that addresses credit card use within the department before a card is issued;
- on issue, one-on-one training is provided to cardholders, which covers their responsibilities, reporting and the acquittal process and provides the cardholder with an opportunity to raise any queries that they may have;
- reports detailing individual card usage and acquittal processing times are provided to the Executive Management Group on a monthly basis. Holders and/or supervisors that have not met specified acquittal times are subject to closer scrutiny with follow-up often being undertaken personally by the CFO;
- the department's internal audit provider undertake regular transactional audits and provide a report to the CFO and the Audit Committee; and
- the reports and transaction audits mentioned above also assist in increasing awareness through highlighting the visibility and scrutiny applied to card usage.

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Question No: 453-455

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Overseas Travel

Senator Birmingham asked:

453: For financial year 2010:

How many DBCDE staff travelled overseas? Please detail by staff member, including their name and position and their total travel expenses. How many staff travelled first class? How many staff travelled business class?

454: For financial year 2010:

What was the total cost of overseas travel for DBCDE? Please include a list of all international travel itemised by trip, detailing the number of DBCDE staff involved and the cost of each trip including the total amounts spent on accommodation and meals, cities or other destinations visited, the purpose of the travel and any specific outcomes achieved.

455: For financial year 2010:

What was the total amount spent by DBCDE on overseas accommodation and meals?

Answer:

In the 2010-11 financial year, records indicate there were 22 individuals who travelled overseas. The department's policy is for overseas travel to be undertaken using business class fares.

For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 the total departmental spend for international travel was \$0.4m. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow individual components of travel to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

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Question No: 456

Program No: CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Interstate Travel

Senator Birmingham asked:

For Financial Year 2010 – How many staff travelled interstate?

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, 528 DBCDE officers undertook domestic travel.

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Question No: 457

Program No: CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Interstate Travel

Senator Birmingham asked:

For Financial Year 2010 – What was the total accommodation and meals bill for staff travelling interstate over the past year?

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 the total departmental spend for domestic travel was \$2.03m. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow individual components of domestic travel to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

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Question No: 458

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please provide a breakdown by category (e.g. legal advice) of total costs paid to external consultants. For all payments in excess of \$10,000, please itemise and detail the name of the consultant, work undertaken and the total payments made to the consultant.

Answer:

Details of the department's consultancies valued in excess of \$10 000 are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au). Furthermore, the department's Annual Reports contain additional information regarding consultancies, including expenditure details. The Annual Report 2010-11 is available on the department's website at: (www.dbcde.gov.au/about_us/annual_reports/annual_report_2010-11)

While AusTender and the Annual Report contain details of contracts valued at \$10 000 or more, it is considered to be an unreasonable diversion of resources for the department to provide details of consultancies valued at less than \$10 000.

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Question No: 459

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Senator Fisher asked:

How has the efficiency dividend been implemented? Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend.

Answer:

The impact of the efficiency dividend, together with all other budget measures, are taken into consideration in developing the annual budget for the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

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Question No: 460

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the department's hospitality spend for the year 2010-11?
- b. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- c. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for the year 2010-11.
- d. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event

Answer:

Refer to Question on Notice 244, Budget Estimates Hearings May 2011, which details the department's and Minister's hospitality expenditure from 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011. There was no further hospitality expenditure during the period 1 June 2011 to 30 June 2011.

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Question No: 461

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the department's entertainment spend for the year 2010-11?
- b. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- c. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for the year 2010-11.
- d. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event

Answer:

The department's financial management system does not allow for a distinction between spending on 'hospitality' and spending on 'entertainment'. Refer to Question on Notice 235 and 236, Budget Estimates Hearings May 2011 and Question on Notice 460, Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2011 for spending on hospitality.

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Question No: 462

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What hospitality spend is the department planning on spending?
- b. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- c. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for?
- d. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event

Answer:

The department does not currently have any hospitality or entertainment planned that has been agreed and announced by Government.

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Question No: 463

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What entertainment spend is the department planning on spending?
- b. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- c. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for?
- d. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event

Answer:

The department's financial management system does not allow for a distinction between spending on 'hospitality' and spending on 'entertainment'. Refer to Question on Notice 462, Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2011 for spending on hospitality.

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Question No: 464

Program No. CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Grants

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answer:

Refer to answer for Question on Notice 143 (2), Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2010.

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Question No: 465

Program No: CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

For the year 2010 – please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 the total departmental spend for domestic travel was \$2.03m, and \$0.4m for international travel. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow individual components of travel to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

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Question No: 466

Program No: CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

For the year FYTD – please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 the total departmental spend for domestic travel was \$0.590m and \$0.062m for international travel. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow individual components of travel to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

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Question No: 467

Program No: CFO Group

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

How much did the department spend on taxis in 2010-11? Provide a breakdown of each business group in the department.

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 the total departmental spend on taxis was \$0.26m. The department does not record taxi data in a way that would readily allow individual business groups to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.