

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates – 25–26 February 2009

Question: aet 59

Topic: Consultants Engaged by Treasury

Hansard Page: E93(25 February 2009)

Senator BUSHBY asked:

Senator BUSHBY—Will we lead out with the consultancy question from earlier? Do we have the Treasury person here?

CHAIR—Do you want to have that answer about consultancies now?

Senator BUSHBY—I know that the person has come here especially. We could do that now and then move back on to superannuation.

CHAIR—Yes.

Senator BUSHBY—Thank you, Ms Gerathy, for coming up. I understand you are not necessarily the expert in this area, but you may be able to assist me to some extent.

Ms Gerathy—It depends, or I may be able to take your question on notice.

Senator BUSHBY—What consultants have been engaged by Treasury over the past 12 months?

Ms Gerathy—I will have to take that on notice. What I have here for you is a list from our annual report of the consultancies that we entered into in 2007-08. I do not have a list like this for 2008-09 with me at the moment.

Senator BUSHBY—You can take that on notice. In doing so, could you also include similar statistics for the 12 months prior to that?

Ms Gerathy—Do you want the last 12 months and then the previous 12 months?

Senator BUSHBY—Yes. Could you also name the consultancies?

Ms Gerathy—Yes. We can provide you with a similar list.

Senator BUSHBY—And the terms on which they were engaged? Not the full details, but basically a summary of the terms on which they were engaged?

Ms Gerathy—What sort of information would you be interested in?

Senator BUSHBY—The process under which they were engaged is probably what I am after, whether it was by tender or by direct appointment.

Ms Gerathy—We can do that.

Senator BUSHBY—I am also interested in how much was paid in legal fees by Treasury over the past 12 months.

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Ms Gerathy—Okay.

Senator BUSHBY—How much was paid to non-legal consultants by Treasury over the past 12 months?

Ms Gerathy—Yes.

Senator BUSHBY—What was the value of the savings derived from the efficiency dividend over the same period?

Ms Gerathy—As it applies to Treasury?

Senator BUSHBY—Yes, as it applies to the Department of Treasury.

Ms Gerathy—Yes. I will have to take that on notice.

Senator BUSHBY—Thank you.

Answer:

a) What consultants have been engaged by Treasury over the past 12 months?

A list of consultants engaged by Treasury for the period 25 February 2007 to 24 February 2008 is at Attachment A. A list of consultants engaged by Treasury for the period 25 February 2008 to 24 February 2009 is at Attachment B.

b) How much was paid in legal fees by Treasury over the past 12 months?

Treasury paid \$1.7 million (GST inclusive) in legal fees between 25 February 2008 and 24 February 2009.

c) how much was paid to non-legal consultants by the Treasury over the past 12 months?

Treasury paid \$5.0 million (GST inclusive) to non-legal consultants between the period 25 February 2008 and 24 February 2009.

d) What was the value of savings derived from the efficiency dividend over the same period?

Treasury cannot provide a figure for the savings derived from the efficiency dividend for the period 25 February 2008 to 25 February 2009 because the dividend is applied on a financial year basis. However, the value of savings derived from the efficiency dividend in the 2007-08 financial year was \$4.4 million.