

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10
10 February 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Consultancies

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston.

QUESTION No.: AI-5

How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since 26 November 2007? How does the Department justify this expenditure?

Could the Department provide a complete list of all current and past consultancy services since 26 November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, the rationale for the project, the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies.

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? For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.

ANSWER

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (the Department) engages consultants to provide specialist advice and services necessary to ensure effective program delivery. These consultants are engaged when the specialised skills required are not available within the Department. Procurement contracts entered into by the Department, where the value is \$10,000 or more, are reported on AusTender within six weeks of the contract being executed. In addition, details of consultancies valued at \$10,000 or more are contained in the Department's Annual Report.

The Department's consultancy details are provided in the 2007-08 Annual Report which is available at <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/AbouttheDepartment/Pages/AnnualReport200708.aspx>. Consultancy details in the 2008-09 Annual Report are available at <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/AbouttheDepartment/Pages/AnnualReport200809.aspx>.

The Department's planned strategic procurements, including consultancies, for the 2009-10 financial year are included in the Department's 2009-10 Annual Procurement Plan. This is available at www.tenders.gov.au.