

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE**

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

**Question:**               **BET 42**  
**Topic:**                   **Australian Valuation Office (AVO) - Relocation**  
**Hansard Page:**       **E83**

**Senator Bernardi asked:**

Senator **BERNARDI**—I would like to go to another office relocation. I understand the AVO in South Australia moved out to Marion.

**Mr D'Ascenzo**—I do know that the AVO in Canberra has moved into our new building in Canberra.

**Senator BERNARDI**—I am specifically interested in South Australia.

**Mr D'Ascenzo**—I do not know the details.

**Senator BERNARDI**—It moved out to Marion and I understand that it has now moved back out of that place. Are you familiar with the details?

**Mr D'Ascenzo**—No, I am not aware of that.

**Senator BERNARDI**—I am assured that it has. I have a question that perhaps you can take on notice. I am interested in why the decision to move to Marion was made and then the decision to move back a very short time later was made. I would like the costs of the move in the initial instance. I would also like the cost of the move in the second instance and whether there were any circumstances that gave rise to that move.

**Mr D'Ascenzo**—I will take that on notice.

**Senator BERNARDI**—You will have to. Perhaps you could also take on notice whether there were any incidences of vandalism of employee's cars or indeed any loss of particular equipment in the AVO. Are you aware of any theft issues within the AVO?

**Mr D'Ascenzo**—I am not aware of any.

**Senator BERNARDI**—What would be the AVO policy in regard to insuring any expensive equipment?

**Mr D'Ascenzo**—We have the normal insurance policies that cover all of our equipment. It should be common.

**Senator BERNARDI**—Is there a minimum threshold at which the insurance is taken, or is their some self insurance?

**Mr D'Ascenzo**—I am not sure of the level at which we operate our insurance.

**Senator BERNARDI**—Can you find out for me?

**Mr D'Ascenzo**—I can take that on notice.

**Senator BERNARDI**—I would be interested whether there has been any loss of equipment, in particular for the Marion office. Mr D'Ascenzo, I would say that I will have some continuing questions on the AVO and it would be of great help if perhaps someone who is more able to answer questions could actually be in attendance in future estimates.

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**Answer:**

Before moving to Marion, the Australian Valuation Office (AVO) had an office in the former Commonwealth Centre, Currie Street, Adelaide. The AVO was in the Marion shopping-centre premises for a period of three years.

Capital costs associated with the move to Marion in 2005 amounted to \$338,000 and related to the fit-out of the office and were depreciated over the life of the lease.

At the expiration of the Marion lease on 14 June 2008, and in alignment with the national plan to co-locate back into Tax Office sites, AVO staff recently moved to the Tax Office in Rundle Plaza, Adelaide. The removal cost of this re-location was around \$4,000.

AVO is not aware of any incidences of vandalism to employee cars or any loss of particular equipment or theft issues. One AVO car was damaged in the Marion car-park, which is some distance from the AVO office. The car was not badly damaged.

The AVO's Schedule of Insurance is held with Comcover and includes the following classes of cover:

- General Liability
- Professional Indemnity
- Directors and Officers
- Property Loss, Destruction or Damage (incl Fraud & Fidelity)
- Business Interruption/Consequential Loss
- Official Travel Outside Home Country or Country of Assignment

Motor Vehicle insurance is included in the contract with Leaseplan for the provision of fleet vehicles.