

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates, 2 June – 4 June 2009

**Question:**               **bet 129**

**Topic:**                   **Consultants (ATO)**

**Hansard Page:**       **Written**

**Senator Bushby asked:**

1. What consultants have been engaged by ATO over the past 12 months?
2. What areas were the consultants sought to advise on?
3. How much was paid to the consultants?
4. Who were the consultants?
5. How much was paid in legal fees by ATO over the past 12 months?
6. How much was paid in non-legal consultants by ATO over the past 12 months?
7. Were consultants sought by tender or direct appointment
  - a) If tender, who was the decision-maker on the consultants who were successful in the tender process?
  - b) Who were the successful consultants?

**Answer:**

1. Refer to Attachment A – column titled ‘Service provider’.
2. Refer to Attachment A – column titled ‘Description of service’.
3. \$18,278,658 including goods and services tax (GST) was paid by the Tax Office and the Australian Valuation Office to consultants for the 2008-09 financial year. The attachment includes a small number of consultants who were engaged for the 2008-09 financial year but for which there was no expenditure. Service Provider Priestley, Lancelot J was engaged for legal consultancy services to the value of \$151,050.
4. Refer to Attachment A – column titled ‘Service provider’
5. \$50,367,907 including GST. This includes: costs for services provided by three external legal panels, counsel fees, disbursements including issuing summonses and court filing fees, mediation fees, prosecution costs, witness costs and indemnity fees. This figure may include some fees paid to external legal consultants.
6. \$18,127,608 including GST.

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7. Refer to Attachment A – column titled ‘Tender process’.

a) Procurement processes are undertaken in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. Procurement activities are generally approved by *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA) delegates or by a Minister.

b) Refer to Attachment A – column titled ‘Service provider’.

Please note that the ATO publishes details of consultancies and legal expenditure in the Commissioner of Taxation’s Annual Report.