

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 137

Topic: ACCC - Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

1. How much has the Department spent on consultancy services this financial year? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).
2. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since February Estimates 2011? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).
3. Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?
4. Has there been any changes in the consultancies that are planned for this calendar year since February Estimates 2011? If yes, 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, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
5. Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.

Answer:

1. Details of ACCC consultancies are published on the ACCC website. This information is mirrored on the AusTender website and appears each year in the ACCC Annual Report.
2. Please refer to the previous response.
3. The ACCC is up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website.
4. The ACCC's consultancy requirements are primarily driven by regulatory and enforcement activities that arise on an ongoing basis. As such, the ACCC is unable to define an exact number of planned consultancies at any given time. Accordingly it is not possible to ensure

all consultancies are published on the Annual Procurement Plan at the commencement of each financial year.

5. The majority of ACCC consultancies are engaged via two ACCC Standing Offer Panels that have been publicly tendered.