

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 209

Topic: Office Space

Hansard Page: 108

Senator Bushby asked:

Mr Samuel: Well, when we are asked to by the government. I do not think the government has responded to that report, so it is entirely a matter for government. I just want to ask some questions about your new Sydney office. What process was gone through to select the new Sydney office?

Mr Cassidy: It is progressing.

Senator BUSHBY: How did you actually decide where you would locate?

Mr Cassidy: Well, we inspected quite a number of what we thought were suitable sites for our new office. We have requirements in terms of locality to the courts, locality to legal firms and the like. Basically, we inspected a number of sites, assessed them against our requirements and against the requirements that the government has in terms of buildings and accommodation for Commonwealth agencies. We decided on the site we have now moved into.

Senator BUSHBY: Given we are in budget estimates, I am curious to know how much the ACCC spent to fit out the new office in Sydney?

Mr Brocklehurst: The new office was fitted out for approximately \$4½ million.

Senator BUSHBY: That is for the fitout. And how many staff are in the new office?

Mr Brocklehurst: At the present stage there are approximately a bit over 100 officers.

Senator BUSHBY: One hundred officers stationed there?

Mr Brocklehurst: It varies. We have a lot of movement between offices in relation to—

Senator BUSHBY: What is the maximum that it is designed to take?

Mr Brocklehurst: With growth that we have coming on board in relation to NPPs, it can take up to approximately 150-odd staff.

Senator BUSHBY: What is the equivalent square metres of office space per staff member in the new Sydney office. Do you know that?

Mr Brocklehurst: I will have to take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

The usable office area per workpoint is 17.7 square metres which includes breakout spaces and staff meeting rooms.