

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, 2 November to 3 November 2005

Question: SBT 57

Topic: APRA – Information & Communications Technology

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Conroy asked:

1.
 - (a) Please provide details of total departmental/organisational spending on Information and Communications Technology products and services during the last 12 months.
 - (b) Please break down this spending by ICT function (eg communications, security, private network, websites).
 - (c) Was this spending in line with budget forecasts for this 12 month period?
 - (d) If not, please provide details of:
 - (i) The extent that ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - (ii) Details of specific ICT contracts which resulted in department/organisation spending in excess of budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - (iii) The reasons ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period.

2. Please provide details of any ICT projects that have been commissioned by the Department/organisation during the past 12 months that have failed to meet designated project time frames (ie have failed to satisfy agreed milestones by agreed dates).

For such projects that were not completed on schedule, please provide details of:

 - (i) The extent of any delay;
 - (ii) The reasons these projects were not completed on time;
 - (iii) Any contractual remedies sought by the Department/organisation as a result of these delays (eg penalty payments).

3. Please provide details of any ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months that have materially failed to satisfy project specifications.

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4. Please provide details of any ICT projects that were abandoned by the Department/organisation within the last 12 months before the delivery of all project specifications outlined at the time the project was commissioned.
- (a) For such abandoned projects, please provide details of:
- (i) Any contractual remedies sought by the Department as a result of the abandonment of these projects.
 - (ii) Any costs of re-tendering the ICT project.

Answer:

1.

(a) The non-capital total ICT spending was \$2,449,243 against a budget of \$2,209,654 so actual exceeded budget by \$239,589 (10.8%).

(b,c,d) i.

- Spending on Telecommunications was \$378,388 against a budget of \$501,785.
- Spending on Internet/WAN was \$336,075 against a budget of \$347,020.
- Spending on Non-capital IT equipment, software and consumables was \$678,001 against a budget of \$487,055.
- Spending on hardware and software maintenance was \$1,056,779 against a budget of \$873,794.

(b,c,d) ii.

- The variance to budget was not as a consequence of any specific ICT contracts.

(b,c,d) iii.

- The major cause of the variance was bringing forward the purchase of some database software purchases to take advantage of volume discounting.

2. No ICT projects have failed to meet agreed milestones over this period.
3. No ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months have materially failed to satisfy project specifications.
4. No ICT projects involving external parties were abandoned during this period.