

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS QUESTION
(Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 October – 21 October)

Question: SBT 146

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Bushby asked:

- a) How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since Budget Estimates 2010? 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).

The total spend on consultancy services since 4 June 2010 is \$6,610.536.

Details of consultancies valued at over \$10,000 engaged by ASIC since Budget Estimates 2010 have been published and are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au) noting that departments have six weeks to report the procurement contracts on AusTender. The information provided on AusTender includes the supplier name, a description of the consultancy, the start date, the end date, the method of procurement and the contract value. This information can be accessed by selecting "Reports", "Contracts awarded as Consultancies" and entering "ASIC" and the date range.

- b) How can the department justify this expenditure?

The expenditure is required to secure specialised, professional skills and expertise currently unavailable within ASIC and/or to obtain independent research and information from the market that is necessary for ASIC to meet its statutory obligations and service delivery requirements.

- c) How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since Budget Estimates 2010? 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). Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded? Provide total figures since Budget Estimates 2010 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.

Since Budget Estimates 2010, 43 consultancies have been undertaken or are underway.

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Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au). A summary of the total value of all consultancies (valued at over \$10,000) since 2008/09 are as follows:

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Total Value of Consultancies awarded since 4 June 2010	\$16,359,054
Total Value of Consultancies awarded during FY09/10	\$18,099,948
Total Value of Consultancies awarded during FY08/09	\$ 8,185,906

- d) Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contacts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?

Yes. ASIC is not aware of any discrepancies in the figures available on the website.

- e) Has there been any changes in the consultancies are planned for this calendar year since Budget Estimates 2010? 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.

Since Budget Estimates 2010, there have not been any changes to the consultancies planned for this calendar year.

- f) 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.

Details of current consultancies valued at over \$10,000 engaged by ASIC have been published and are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au). In addition to the standard contract details published on AusTender such as the supplier name, a description of the consultancy, the start date, the end date, the method of procurement and the contract value, there are fields titled:

- (i) 'Category', which specifies the intended use of the consultancy; and
- (ii) 'Consultancy Reason', which indicates why the work could not be undertaken internally.

In respect of (i), some examples may be:

- Business Intelligence Consulting Services;
- Information Technology Consulting Services; or
- Software Maintenance and Support.

In respect of (ii), some examples may be:

- Need for specialised or professional skills;
- Skills currently unavailable within the agency; or
- Need for independent research or assessment.

ENDS