

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20 – 21 October 2010

Question: SBT 42

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Bushby asked:

1. 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 (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc).
2. How can the department justify this expenditure?
3. 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 (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc).
4. 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.
5. 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?
6. 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.
7. 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.

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Answer:

1. \$2,900,514 was paid to consultants between 2 June and 31 October 2010. Refer to Attachment A for a full breakdown of the consultancies.

2. The Treasury engages the services of consultants to investigate or diagnose a defined issue or problem; carry out defined research, reviews or evaluations; provide independent advice; and provide information or creative solutions to assist the Treasury in its decision making.

3. 70 . Refer to Attachment A for a full breakdown of the consultancies.

4. \$14,108,131. Please refer to the answer to question 1 for the total spending on the consultancies. For a breakdown of consultancy value and spend in 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years, refer to the Treasury annual report for 2008-09 p.145 and Treasury annual report for 2009-10 p.144.

5. Yes.

6. Since the publication of the Annual Procurement Plan there has been one additional consultancy planned, which met the publication criteria and which has been published. For details refer to the Austender website.

Whilst Treasury publishes and updates the Annual Procurement Plan with known procurements, occasionally due to short time-frames it will not be updated. In these instances Treasury approaches the market directly, as there would be no benefit in updating the Annual Procurement Plan.

7. Refer to Attachment A.