

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2004-2005 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
17 FEBRUARY 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Corporate

Question Number: W175-05

Question:

Senator Carr asked in writing:

Please provide a table listing details of all consultancies for the 2003/04 financial year, for the department and all associated agencies. Please include the following:

- The costs for all completed consultancies, both budgeted and actual;
- The costs for ongoing consultancies, both budgeted and for the current financial year;
- The total costs for all consultancies, both the amount expended in the current financial year, and the total budgeted value of all consultancies running in the current financial year;
- The nature and purpose of the consultancy;
- The method by which the contract was let;
- The name and details of the company and/or individual who is carrying out, or carried out, the contract.

Answer:

Australian Government policy requires agencies that are subject to *the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) to report all contracts, including consultancy contracts, with an estimated liability of \$2,000 or more in AusTender, within six weeks of entering into the arrangement. The information recorded in AusTender includes a description of the contract, the provider engaged, the value of the contract and the selection process. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has complied with this policy. Accordingly, details of all consultancies with a value of \$2,000 or more are publicly available from AusTender, albeit not in a form that distinguishes consultancy contract from non-consultancy contracts.

Further, the Department's annual reports provide information on consultancy contracts for the relevant financial year. Annual reports detail each consultancy expenditure in excess of \$10,000, and provide the consultant's identity, the consultancy services provided, the value of the contract and method of selection (see, for example, Table 51 in the Department's *Annual Report 2003-04*).

The preparation of answers to this question would involve a significant diversion of resources to provide information, most of which, is or will be available publicly.