

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0528_12

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Consultancies

"1. How many consultancies were undertaken in 2010-11? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies. 2. Were there any changes to any of the portfolio's tenders in 2010-11? Detail any changes. 3. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway this FYTD? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies. 4. Does each department and agency stand by its current tenders on the Austenders website? Have any changes or corrections been made for any tenders advertised on to Government Tenders website (www.tenders.gov.au) for tenders advertised this financial year? Explain. Are up to date with reporting requirements? 5. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? 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, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known."

Answer

DEEWR has provided the following response:

Details of consultancies undertaken in 2010-11 are available in the DEEWR 2010-11 Annual Report available on department's website:
http://www.deewr.gov.au/Department/AnnualReport/Documents/Related_Consultants_Consultancies.pdf

Details of portfolio agencies consultancies undertaken in 2010-11 are available on the respective agency websites. For:

Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABCC):
http://www.abcc.gov.au/Performanceandreports/Reports/Annualreports/Documents/AR1011_FullReport.pdf

Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA)
http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/_resources/ACARA_Annual_Report_2010-2011.pdf

The Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC)
[In liquidation](#)

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL):
http://www.aitsl.edu.au/verve/_resources/2010-11_Annual_Report_AITSL.pdf

Safe Work Australia
<http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au/AboutSafeWorkAustralia/WhatWeDo/Publications/Pages/Annual-Report-2010-11.aspx>

Comcare
http://www.comcare.gov.au/annual_report_2010-11/overview

Fair Work Australia (FWA)
<http://www.fwa.gov.au/index.cfm?pagename=aboutannual>

Fair Work Ombudsman
<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Publications/Annual%20report/Fair-Work-Ombudsman-Annual-Report-2010-11.pdf>

Data taken from AusTender indicate the following changes to the portfolio's tenders in 2010-11:

2010-2011 (01 Jul 10 – 30 Jun 11)
DEEWR had 17 tenders with addenda. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 29 questions from respondents with DEEWR answers posted as addenda.• 6 clarifications to documentation.• 8 additional information addenda.• 1 amendment to tender documentation.• 1 addition of AusTender clause.• 2 corrections to documentation.• 4 changes to close dates.
Comcare had 3 tenders with addenda. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 questions from respondents with Comcare answers posted as addenda.• 1 correction to tender documentation.• 1 extension to the tender closing time.
The Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) had 2 tenders with addenda. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 questions from respondents with FWO answers posted as addenda.

The value of consultancies undertaken for the department for the current financial year is \$13,272,166.81. Details of consultancies undertaken or underway valued at \$10,000 or more are provided at Attachment A.

Details of all consultancies undertaken by portfolio agencies are provided at Attachment B.

Details of any new procurement opportunities are published in the Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website on 1 July each year. These are regularly updated by the department and portfolio agencies as required.

Data taken from AusTender indicate the following changes or corrections been made for any tenders advertised on to the Government Tenders website (www.tenders.gov.au) for tenders advertised this financial year:

2011-2012 (1 Jul 11 – 11 Nov 11)
DEEWR had 11 tenders with addenda. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 questions from respondents with DEEWR answers posted as addenda.• 11 clarifications to documentation.• 1 change to a map in the tender documentation.• 1 change to the tender close date.
Comcare had 1 tender with addenda. This included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 questions from respondents with Comcare answers posted as addenda.

The DEEWR business opportunities on the AusTender website are current. Addendums and clarifications are made in line with the requirements of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (CPGs). The department complies with the reporting requirements of the CPGs.

For this calendar year DEEWR has 146 consultancy procurements conducted via an open market approach, of which 136 consultancies were undertaken using existing panel arrangements. The remaining 10 consultancies were not published on the Annual Procurement Plan (APP). Details of the 10 consultancies are provided at Attachment C. Reasons for not publishing in the APP include:

- the procurement was not planned at the time Annual Procurement Plan was published
- the method of approaching the market had not been determined at the time of publication