

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Senate Budget Estimates, June 2011
Questions on Notice: AusAID

Question No.11

Senator Trood asked in writing

- a) How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway this FYTD?
Please 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). Please also include total value for all consultancies.
- b) 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?
- c) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year?
- d) 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:

- a) As an agency subject to the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, AusAID is required to report Australian procurement contracts awarded where the contract value is \$10,000 or more on AusTender, the government's procurement information system. From 3 September 2007, departments and agencies have been required to include on AusTender details of those contracts which are consultancies and the reason for the consultancy. The information sought by the honourable Senator in relation to consultancies valued at \$10,000 or more will therefore be available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au) for both individual consultancies and for the total value of all consultancies entered into by AusAID.
- b) All tenders currently listed on the AusTender website represent a true account of all open sourced Approaches to Market currently being undertaken by the Agency.

After an Approach to Market is released via AusTender, AusAID has the ability to make any corrections or clarifications through the addendum process. Information on the number of addenda issued by AusAID is not available as AusTender does not track the number of addenda for each agency.

All addenda issued through AusTender by AusAID were consistent with the addendum process as defined in the Approach to Market documents.

Outside of the Annual Procurement Plan, there are no additional reporting requirements for tenders on the AusTender website. The Annual Procurement Plan for the financial year 2011-12 was published on AusTender on 29 June 2011.

- c) The Annual Procurement Plan is published by financial year. For this calendar year the planned consultancies were published in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 Annual Procurement Plans.

There are five planned Approaches to Market for consultancy services for the remainder of the 2011 calendar year. These consultancies will be engaged through an open source procurement method.

- d) The five planned consultancies referred to above have been published in AusAID's 2011-12 Annual Procurement Plan.