

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

Question No.52

Senator Trood asked in writing

- a) For each portfolio department and agency office please list the occupied workpoint space allocated per person.
- b) Does this adhere to the Government's Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines (the Guidelines)? Explain.
 - i. If yes, please explain if any refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines and what the costs were.
 - a. What savings did each portfolio department and agency achieve by meeting the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.
 - b. How much of these savings has each portfolio department and agency kept? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.
 - ii. If no, please give details why it does not, including whether an exemption has been received by the Finance Minister.
 - a. What funding has been taken from each portfolio department and agency because they do not meet the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.
 - b. Are there plans to meet the Guidelines? Please explain.

Answer:

- a) The PRODAC audit of occupied work-points conducted in March 2010 resulted in 17.0m² per occupied work-point.
- b) AusAID's property portfolio adheres to the Guidelines across the five principles for property management in achieving value for money, property management planning, efficient and effective design, appropriate accountability measures and cooperative Commonwealth property management. AusAID's March desk count resulted in one square metre above the target of 16m² per occupied workpoint. This is expected to reduce to an average density of 14.58m² once additional staff are recruited and occupy new office space.
 - i. No refurbishment works were required to meet the Guidelines and no savings were required.
 - ii. In line with AusAID's Property Management Plan, AusAID has been acquiring offices to accommodate the growth in staff. This is resulting in a small surplus of accommodation from time to time while new staff are recruited and occupy the new office space
 - a. AusAID as adhered to the Guidelines and therefore no funding has been taken from the agency.
 - b. When undertaking new acquisitions and fitout design, AusAID is adhering to the Guidelines.