

30 March 2007



Mr Alastair Sands
Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

Dear Alastair

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislative Committee
Questions on Notice – Estimates 2006-07 Additional Budget Estimates
Hearing, February 2007**

Please find attached ONA's responses to the following Questions on Notice:

Senator Wong:

- PM 32 — Recruitment Agency Spending
- PM 39 — Opinion Polls / Market Research
- PM 46 — Advertising Campaigns
- PM 53 — Monitoring Use of Water in Departments and Agencies

Senator Evans:

- PM 62 — Iraq
- PM 63 — Afghanistan

Senator Ludwig:

- PM 89 — Grants allocated by Department/Agency

These questions were directed to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet which asked that agencies within the portfolio respond directly.

Yours sincerely
Peter N Varghese

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Senate and Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Office of National Assessments

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing, February 2007



PM 32

(1) What sum was spent on recruitment agencies in 2006 by each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: \$12,601.93

(2) Will the Minister provide a list of the recruitment agencies which are used by the department and agencies in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: Hays Personnel

(3) What functions do recruitment agencies perform for departments and what would be the likely impact on departmental outcomes from reduction in recruitment spending on external agencies?

ONA response:

- a. Identification of potential executive assistants candidates
- b. Harder to identify suitable candidates in a timely way

(4) What benefit-cost assessments have been done which benchmark internal recruitment processes and/or on utilising on-line recruitment portals?

ONA response: In view of the limited use of recruitment agencies, ONA has not done a cost-benefit analysis

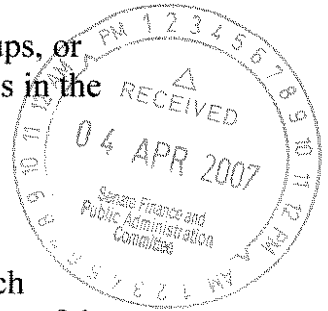
PM 39

(1) What sum was spent on opinion polls, focus groups or market research in 2006 by each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: Nil

(2) Will the Minister provide a list of the opinion polls, focus groups, or market research agencies that are used by departments and agencies in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: N/A



(3) How much of the opinion polls, focus groups or market research expenditure of agencies or departments was conducted at the request of the Minister's office?

ONA response: N/A

(4) What benefit-cost assessments have been done which assess the returns from opinion polls, focus groups of market research?

ONA response: N/A

PM 46 – ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS

(1) What sum was spent on each of the active advertising campaigns for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: Nil

(2) In attachment A – a list of active campaigns that were tabled on 30 October 2006 at Senate Estimates, what were the actual costs for those which have been completed as relevant to each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: Nil

(3) At the Budget Estimates in May 2006, the Budget papers listed Pending Campaigns (from Budget Papers: period up to 4 years).

(4) For those campaigns, which are relevant to each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: N/A

PM 53

MONITORING USE OF WATER IN DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

(1) Is there any requirement to provide details of how much water is used and how much water is saved in the annual reports of each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: ONA does not produce an unclassified annual report. Its classified annual report does not provide details of water usage.



(2) Is water usage monitored for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: No

(3) What is the water usage for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

ONA response: N/A

(4) For each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, can information be provided on whether dual flush toilets are in place in the buildings they occupy?

ONA response:

We do not have dual flush toilets. The building owner recently installed a low volume (6 litres) flush and pan system.

PM 62

Iraq

Is ONA monitoring the effects of the movements of displaced peoples within Iraq and from Iraq?

Does ONA agree with the UN High Commissioner's for Refugees estimate that displaced Iraqis total some three million?

Has ONA produced assessments to inform government on the effect of such movements of displaced peoples?

Does ONA now assess Iraq to be in a civil war?

When was Australia provided with a copy of the United States National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) of January 2007? Has ONA reviewed its assessments in the light of the January 2007 NIE and informed government?

Has President Bush's 'Surge Strategy' altered ONA's assessment for those Iraqi areas in which ADF elements are deployed?

Has ONA undertaken assessments on the effectiveness of aid programs to Iraq? If so, when?

Has ONA assessed the accuracy of recent media reporting that aid programs to Iraq have been corrupted and are wasteful? If so, when?

Has ONA assessed the effectiveness of Australia's aid program to Iraq? If so, when?



ONA response:

ONA reports regularly on developments in Iraq. These reports include analysis of displaced Iraqis, the security environment, the Baghdad Security Plan and the progress of economic reconstructions and development. The content of this analysis is confidential. ONA has not done a separate analysis of Australia's aid program to Iraq.

ONA received a copy of the US National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Iraq on 10 February 2007. The conclusions of the NIE have been taken into account in ONA's subsequent reporting on Iraq.

PM 63

Afghanistan

When did ONA last produce an assessment on Afghanistan? Is one currently in progress?

ONA response:

ONA reports regularly on developments in Afghanistan. At the time of this response (28 March 2007) ONA's most recent report on Afghanistan was dated 28 March 2007. ONA will also be producing a National Assessment on Afghanistan in the second quarter of 2007.

PM 89

With regard to all grants allocated by the department/agency from 1 January 2002, could a table detailing the following information be provided:

- a. The name of the grant program
- b. The name of the grant recipient
- c. The ABN of the grant recipient (where available)
- d. The value of the grant awarded
- e. The date the grant was awarded
- f. The state of the grant recipient
- g. The postcode of the grant recipient

ONA response: ONA does not provide grants.