

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Topic: ICT Review breakdown of \$25 million

Question reference number: F77 (a-e)

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

Number of Pages: 3

Senator Boyce asked:

The Additional Estimate Papers state that there will be an additional \$25 million over 4 years provided for the Department to complete a review into Governmental use of information and communication technology.

- a) Can the Department breakdown the exact areas in which this money is being spent on during the review?
- b) Does the review have any specific outcomes that performance can be measured against? Can the Department outline these outcomes?
- c) How will the review of government communication make it less costly for government to advertise?
- d) The Australian Financial Review reported in December that the Department is establishing a Multi-Use list of communications experts interested in working in Australian government advertising and information campaigns. What is the exact criteria for communications experts wishing to be included on this list?
- e) What are the names of communications experts who are currently on this list?

Answer:

- a) The Government funding of \$25 million over 4 years provided will provide additional staff and consultancy resources. The attached table summarises the funding allocation for each program outcome.

Allocation of ICT Reform Program funds

Program Outcomes	2008-09 (\$M)	2009-10 (\$M)	2010-11 (\$M)	2011-12 (\$M)	Total * (\$M)
Strengthen pan-government governance	0.10	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.65
Strengthen agency governance	1.29	0.91	0.94	0.42	3.56
Tighten the management of ICT business as usual funding	8.93	4.83	0.29	0.28	14.33
Enhance the management of the APS ICT skills base	0.39	0.44	0.29	0.29	1.41

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Data centres (whole of government data centre strategy)	1.8	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.81
Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the ICT marketplace	0.70	0.82	0.55	0.55	2.62
Sustainability of ICT	0.14	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.23
All others	0.17	0.37	0.39	0.40	1.33
Total	13.52	7.65	2.64	2.13	25.94

*discrepancies are due to rounding

- b) The results of the Gershon review will impact existing outcomes throughout the Australian Public Service by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of ICT. In a less formal sense, the seven recommendations in the ICT Review, set out in Chapter 5 describe the outcomes of the reform program. They are to:
- strengthen pan-government governance,
 - strengthen agency governance,
 - tighten the management of ICT business as usual funding,
 - enhance the management of the APS ICT skills base,
 - develop a whole of government data centre strategy,
 - improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the ICT marketplace, and
 - improve the sustainability of ICT.
- c) The Gershon Review terms of reference did not include advertising or similar Government communication. The communications aspect of the review related to technology only. Consequently, there is no reference to government advertising in Sir Peter Gershon's report.
- d) Applicants interested in being included on the Communications Multi-Use List are asked to demonstrate:
- relevant professional experience and expertise in any of five specialist disciplines, which include advertising, market and social research, public relations, communicating with Indigenous Australians, and communicating with people from non-English speaking backgrounds;
 - the experience and/or capacity to contribute to national level communications activities;
 - solvency; and
 - a commitment to compliance with OH&S requirements.

In addition, applicants are also required to agree to comply with the Operational Rules of the Communications Multi-Use List.

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- e) The names of the organisations that have been assessed as satisfying the conditions for inclusion on the Communications Multi-Use List are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au/cmnl). This list is progressively updated.