

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2009

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Human Services Portfolio
Outcome/Output Group: All
Topic: Consultants

Senator: Coonan
Question reference number: HS15
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

Question:

HS15a: How much is it estimated that each department and agency will spend in 2008-09 on:

- A. Consultants in total
- B. ICT Consultants
- C. Legal Consultants
- D. HR Consultants
- E. Accounting Consultants

HS15b: What is the average cost per hour for each department of the above A-E?:

Answer:

Department of Human Services (including Child Support Agency)

HS15a

A.	Consultants in total:	\$350,000
B.	ICT Consultants:	\$60,000
C.	Legal Consultants:	\$0*
D.	HR Consultants:	\$50,000
E.	Accounting Consultants:	\$240,000

* The majority of legal services are generally regarded as non-consultancy contracts (as defined in the Department of Finance and Deregulation Guidance on Procurement Publishing Obligations – FMG15).

HS15b

The detail requested in the question is not readily available and to provide this information would require the diversion of a large amount of resources which cannot be justified.

CRS Australia

HS15a

A.	Consultants in total:	\$515,000
B.	ICT Consultants:	\$13,000
C.	Legal Consultants:	\$0*
D.	HR Consultants:	\$126,000
E.	Accounting Consultants:	\$115,000

* The majority of legal services are generally regarded as non-consultancy contracts (as defined in the Department of Finance and Deregulation Guidance on Procurement Publishing Obligations – FMG15).

HS15b

The detail requested in the question is not readily available and to provide this information would require the diversion of a large amount of resources which cannot be justified.

Centrelink

HS15a

Centrelink does not have a fixed plan for future year expenditure on consultancies. However, based on the decreasing value of consultancy expenditure reported in the Centrelink Annual Reports 05-06, 06-07 and 07-08, it is estimated that Centrelink will spend around \$1 million in total on consultancies in 2008-09. The estimated expenditure for particular categories of consultants is unknown.

HS15b

The detail requested in the question is not readily available and to provide this information would require the diversion of a large amount of resources which cannot be justified.

HSA Group

HS15a

HSA Group has budgeted \$908,000 for consultants in total which is subject to change. The estimated expenditure for particular categories of consultants is unknown.

HS15b

The detail requested in the question is not readily available and to provide this information would require the diversion of a large amount of resources which cannot be justified.

Medicare Australia

HS15a

A.	Consultants in total:	\$2,400,000
B.	ICT Consultants:	\$1,040,000
C.	Legal Consultants:	\$330,000*
D.	HR Consultants:	\$151,000
E.	Accounting Consultants:	\$879,000

* The majority of legal services are generally regarded as non-consultancy contracts (as defined in the Department of Finance and Deregulation Guidance on Procurement Publishing Obligations – FMG15).

HS15b

The detail requested in the question is not readily available and to provide this information would require the diversion of a large amount of resources which cannot be justified.

Australian Hearing

HS15a

Australian Hearing budgets for a group that comprises of the total number of both Contractors and Consultants. The precise detail requested in the question is not readily available and would require the diversion of a large amount of resources.

HS15b

The detail requested in the question is not readily available and to provide this information would require the diversion of a large amount of resources which cannot be justified.

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