

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee—
Additional Budget Estimates February 2009**

Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Answers to Questions on Notice

Topic: Consultant expenses and estimated expenses.

Questions P13a-P15(e), Written questions on notice

P13(a-b) (COONAN)-DPS

- a) How much did each department and agency spend in 2007-08 on:
 - a. Consultants in total
 - b. ITC Consultants
 - c. Legal Consultants
 - d. HR Consultants
 - e. Accounting Consultants
- b) What was the average cost per hour for each department of the above A-E?

P14(a-b) (COONAN)-DPS

- a) How much is it estimated that each department and agency will spend in 2008-09 on:
 - a. Consultants in total
 - b. ITC Consultants
 - c. Legal Consultants
 - d. HR Consultants
 - e. Accounting Consultants
- b) What is the average cost per hour for each department and agency of the above A-E?

P15 (COONAN)-DPS

Over each year of the forward estimates, how much will each department and agency spend on:

- A) Consultants in total
- B) ITC Consultants
- C) Legal Consultants
- D) HR Consultants
- E) Accounting Consultants

Answers

P13(a-b) (COONAN)-DPS

- a) In 2007–08, DPS spent the following on consultants:
 - a. Consultants in total—\$981,955
 - b. ITC Consultants—Nil
 - c. Legal Consultants—\$192,975
 - d. HR Consultants—Nil

- e. Accounting Consultants—\$321,359 (note the accounting consultancy fees include the cost [\$142,000] for ANAO audits—which are resources provided free of charge; however, the expense is recorded in the financial statements).
- b) The average cost per hour varies, depending upon the source of the consultant and their level of expertise. Some consultants are also paid on a per-job basis rather than per-hour rate. Therefore it is not possible to provide a valid average hourly rate.

P14(a-b) (COONAN)-DPS

- a) It is estimated that DPS will spend the following on consultants in 2008–09:
 - a. Consultants in total—\$800,000
 - b. ITC Consultants—Nil
 - c. Legal Consultants—\$171,000
 - d. HR Consultants—Nil
 - e. Accounting Consultants—\$230,000 (note the accounting consultancy fees include the cost [\$145,000] for ANAO audits—which are resources provided free of charge; however, the expense is recorded in the financial statements).
- b) The average cost per hour varies, depending upon the source of the consultant and their level of expertise. Some consultants are also paid on a per-job basis rather than per-hour rate. Therefore it is not possible to provide a valid average hourly rate.

P15 (COONAN)-DPS

Over each year of the forward estimates, it is estimated that DPS will spend the following.

Estimated Expenditure	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
A) Consultations Total	816,000	832,000	848,000
B) ITC Consultants			
C) Legal Consultants	99,000	100,000	101,000
D) HR Consultants			
E) Accounting Consultants (including cost of ANAO audits)	300,000	302,000	304,000