

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2009

Question: PM35a-b

Outcome 1, Output 5

Topic: Estimated expenditure on Consultants 2008-09

Hansard Page: Written Question

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

- a) **Senator Coonan asked: 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?**

Answer:

- a) It is estimated that in 2008-09 the department will spend:
- a. \$1,336,023 in total on consultants
 - b. nil on ICT consultants
 - c. \$187,167 on Legal consultants
 - d. nil on HR consultants
 - e. nil on Accounting consultants

The estimated expenditure is based on actual expenditure to date plus the known committed costs for contracts already entered into, and estimates of other planned consultancies.

- b) The Department is unable to provide the average cost per hour for the above because a large proportion of contracts let for consultancy services are fixed price contracts and, as such, neither the number of hours worked nor an hourly cost is included in the contract.