

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 2 /2.1

Topic: Arrangements for small businesses to secure Commonwealth for printing services contracts

Senator: Senator Scott Ryan

Question reference number: F16

Type of question: Written, 22 February 2011

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 15 April 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a. Under the Department of Finance's procurement arrangements, is it possible for small printing businesses to secure contracts for printing services to Commonwealth agencies?
- b. List the steps small printing businesses need to follow to be accepted into the Printer's Panel for purposes of supplying the Commonwealth printing services.
- c. What applications forms do small businesses have to complete to apply to secure printing contracts with the Commonwealth? (list by name or form ID number).
- d. How many pages of application forms need to be completed?
- e. How are small printing businesses notified of up coming printing contracts?
- f. Can small printing businesses apply to join the Printer's Panel at any stage throughout the financial year, or is there a specific 'in take' period?
- g. How was the Printer Panel established?
- h. How are non-panel members notified of upcoming Commonwealth printing contracts? Were printing businesses that had previously supplied printing services to the Commonwealth notified of any changes in Commonwealth procurement procedures before the panel arrangement came into effect?

Answer:

a.– h.

Small printing businesses can enter into contracts for printing services with Commonwealth agencies. The Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) does not manage a whole-of-government print services panel. The provision of print services is an issue for individual agencies.

For contracts expected to be more than \$80,000, businesses can register on AusTender, the Australian Government's procurement information system, to be automatically informed about requests for tender, including for the establishment of panel contracts (standing offers).

If looking for potential clients, small businesses can search AusTender for information about all contracts awarded above \$10,000 in value.