

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 May 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Consultancies

Question reference number: HS 46

Senator: BARNETT

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of pages: 42

Question:

- a) How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (open tender, direct source, etc).
- b) Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also 'value of contracts awarded?' Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 financial years to date.
- c) Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?
- d) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

All answers should be current at the time the answer is submitted.

Answer:

- a) Please see **Attachment A**. Please note that all dollar values are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.
- b) Please see **Attachment B**. Please note that all dollar values are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.
- c) Department of Human Services (including Child Support Program and CRS Australia), Medicare Australia and Centrelink are up to date with reporting requirements on AusTender, and the contract total values are correct.
- d) In many instances, the need for consultancies does not become apparent until specific issues arise and the new financial year's budgets are released.

Attachment C lists details of the only consultancy appearing in an Annual Procurement Plan - Centrelink listed one consultancy procurement in the Annual Procurement Plan 2009-10 (reference 4.3). Department of Human Services (including Child Support Program and CRS Australia), and Medicare had no consultancy procurements listed for the first half of the calendar year. Please note that Annual Procurement Plans are published on a financial year basis. For each of the agencies, the Annual Procurement Plan for 2010-11 is currently being prepared for publication and is unavailable.