

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1
Topic: Budget – significant measures

Senator: Trood

Question reference number: 120

Type of question: 'Hansard' with F&PA, p57, 24 May

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator TROOD: In the budget statement on page 485 – this is the PM&C budget statement for your office – there is a reference to program 1.1 Expenses and a reference to ‘significant assistance free of charge from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’. Is that right?

Dr Thom: Yes

Senator TROOD: Can you explain what that means? What does ‘significant assistance’ represent?

Dr Thom: It is significant in terms of our overall budget. It is to do with corporate functions such as payroll, occupational health and safety, IT services and property services. They provide that to us largely free of charge. It is not significant in absolute dollar terms, but in terms of our rather small budget, it is significant.

Senator TROOD: If it were quantified it would be quite significant in dollar terms, wouldn't it?

Dr Thom: I cannot put a figure on it now. I could derive a figure and give it to you.

Senator TROOD: You can do that if you choose to do so.

Answer:

The main assistance is in terms of office space, estimated at \$102,000 per annum and recorded in our PBS statement as a resource received free of charge. PM&C also provides access to learning and development opportunities free of charge, valued at approximately \$4,500 in 2010/11. PM&C currently provide HR services (payroll) and limited OHS services free of charge, estimated at \$4,500 per annum. Examples of other services provided free of charge are library services and ad hoc advice, such as procurement advice, however it is difficult to put a value on these services.