

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Budget Estimates 25 May 2011**

**Question: 119**

**Topic: Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines**

**Asked By: Senator FIFIELD**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011**

**Number of pages: 2**

- Does this adhere to the Government's Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines (the Guidelines)? Explain.
  - I. If yes, please explain if any refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines and what the costs were.
    - a. What savings did each portfolio department and agency achieve by meeting the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.
    - b. How much of these savings has each portfolio department and agency kept? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.
  - II. If no, please give details why it does not, including whether an exemption has been received by the Finance Minister.
    - a. What funding has been taken from each portfolio department and agency because they do not meet the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.
    - b. Are there plans to meet the Guidelines? Please explain.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Budget Estimates 25 May 2011**

**Answer:**

- The Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines require Departments to:
  - a) undertake Property Data Collection (PRODAC) reporting;
  - b) have a property management plan in place; and
  - c) have a target of 16.00m<sup>2</sup> per work point.

The Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government (DRARDLG) was established on 14 September 2010 and its principal offices are located in Canberra and are provided by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport under shared service arrangements. The offices came with existing furniture fit out which was put in place prior to the introduction of the PRODAC reporting requirements and the Department of Finance and Deregulation target of 16m<sup>2</sup>. DRARDLG has complied with the reporting and planning requirements detailed in the Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines (the Guidelines). The space allocation in the Canberra office is 19.45m<sup>2</sup> per work point.

- I. Not applicable.
- II. No refurbishment has been undertaken by DRARDLG in its nine months of operation.
  - a. No funding has been taken from the Department because it did not meet the Guidelines.
  - b. The Department is currently reviewing its future accommodation requirements and will include strategies to meet the Guidelines.

Note: In accordance with the Department of Finance and Deregulation rules, agencies are to report occupancy where the agency leases or owns 500m<sup>2</sup> or more of 'usable office area' within a building. DRARDLG office holding elsewhere in Australia are less than 500m<sup>2</sup> of 'usable office area' and are therefore not part of the agency PRODAC reporting.