

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(1)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For each of the i) 1999-00, ii) 2000-01, iii) 2001-02, iv) 2002-03, v) 2003-04 financial years, did the Department include in its annual report a report on outcomes achieved for clients from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds?

Answer:

ComSuper's annual reports in each of the above financial years contained appendices dealing with social justice and equity issues. Reference was made to translation services on offer but outcomes of any specific measures introduced to recognise the needs of clients with diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds were not included.

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Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(2)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

If not, for each of the i) 1999-00, ii) 2000-01, iii) 2001-02, iv) 2002-03, v) 2003-04 financial years, did the Department otherwise publish a report on outcomes achieved for clients from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds? (If yes, please provide report)

Answer:

No.

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Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(3)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For each of the i) 1999-00, ii) 2000-01, iii) 2001-02, iv) 2002-03, v) 2003-04 financial years, did the Department budget for costs associated with developing culturally responsible and accessible services?

Answer:

No.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(4)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For the 2003-04 financial year, how much did the Department budget for this purpose?

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3(3).

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Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(5)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For each of the i) 1999-00, ii) 2000-01, iii) 2001-02, iv) 2002-03, v) 2003-04 financial years, how many Departmental programs or services were delivered via an intermediary service provider, such as another level government or a non-government organisation?

Answer:

Nil.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(6)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

Of these programs or services, in each financial year how many did the funding conditions in contracts specify relevant access and equity accountabilities (for example, collection and reporting of information on client characteristics)?

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3(5).

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(7)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For each of these, is the provision a standard clause? If so, can the Department please supply the clause?

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3(5).

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(8)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

If there is no standard provision, is a copy of the provision available for each of these?
Are the provisions subsequently audited? If yes, what were the results? (Please supply).

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3(5).

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(9)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

Can the agency provide a current list of each community information publication it publishes in English as at a) the current date (2 December 2004) or if this is unavailable b) 30 June 2004 (and take from then to 2 December 2004 On Notice) or if this is unavailable c) 1 January 2004 (and take from then until 2 December 2004 On Notice) or if this is unavailable d) the last date for which they were available (specify date and take from then to 2 December 2004 On Notice)?

Answer:

ComSuper does not produce publications for community information purposes. The publications it does produce are specifically for members, employers, and authorised representatives of the superannuation schemes we administer.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(10)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For the above list, what publications are translated into languages other than English and for each, what languages are they translated into?

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3(9).

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(11)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For the above list, how many copies were printed?

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3(9).

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(12)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For the above list, what was the total cost of each document in translation, publication, printing and distribution?

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3(9).

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(13)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

What efforts has the Department made to identify employees from a non-English Speaking background and what languages they are fluent in?

Answer:

ComSuper requests every new employee to provide information about their non-English speaking background and what his or her first language is. Provision of this information is voluntary. ComSuper then maintains this information on its HR system.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(14)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

What proportion of the Department's personnel have a non-English speaking background?

Answer:

14 per cent (58 of 408).

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(15)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For each language other than English that the Department has identified employees with fluency, can the Department provide how many employees were fluent? For each language other than English, how many were identified as being fluent?

Answer:

ComSuper does not formally ascertain if employees are fluent in another language.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(16)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

Of these employees, what efforts has the Department made to identify the language proficiency of these employees? For each language other than English, how many were identified as having proficiency?

Answer:

ComSuper has not formally identified the language proficiency of employees but is aware that in its contact centre, for example, that approximately 10 per cent know a language other than English, covering some 17 languages.

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Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(17)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

Of these employees, how many has the Department identified as possessing accredited language skills to either translator or interpreter standard? For each language other than English, how many were identified as having accreditation at the a) translator and b) interpreter level?

Answer:

ComSuper does not identify whether employees possess accredited language skills.

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Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(18)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

Of these employees, how many has the Department funded in whole or in part accreditation of language skills to either a) translator and b) interpreter level?

Answer:

None.

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Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(19)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

How much did the Department spend engaging language a) translator and
b) interpreter level in each of the financial years i) 2001-02, ii) 2002-03, iii) 2003-04?

Answer:

Nil.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(20)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

How many times did the Department engage an a) translator and b) interpreter in each of the following years i) 2001-02, ii) 2002-03, iii) 2003-04?

Answer:

None.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(21)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For each language in which a) a translator and b) an interpreter was engaged, how many engagements occurred in each of the following years i) 2001-02, ii) 2002-03, iii) 2003-04?

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3(20).

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(22)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

What was the total cost of those engagements by language for a) translators and
b) interpreters in each of the following years i) 2001-02, ii) 2002-03, iii) 2003-04?

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3(20).

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(23)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For each of the financial years i) 1995-96, ii) 1996-97, iii) 1997-98, iv) 1998-99, v) 1999-00, vi) 2000-01, vii) 2001-02, viii) 2002-03, ix) 2003-04 how much was spent in advertising and advertorial in the ethnic press?

Answer:

Nil.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(24)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For each of the above years, could the Department please specify each title in which advertising was bought, the language of that title and the total annual spend on advertising and advertorial in each title.

Answer:

Not applicable – refer to F3, 23.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(25)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

For each of the financial years i) 1995-96, ii) 1996-97, iii) 1997-98, iv) 1998-99, v) 1999-00, vi) 2000-01, vii) 2001-02, viii) 2002-03, ix) 2003-04 how much was spent in advertising and or advertorials on ethnic radio? For each financial year, could the Department please specify which station, broadcast language and how much was spent on each language at each station.

Answer:

Nil.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(26)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

How many break-ins were there on Departmental property in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04? For each incident:

- a) What was the location and the cost of damage associated with each break in?
- b) What was the cost of damage conducted during each break in?
- c) What was the subject of theft in each break in?
- d) What was the cost of any theft associated with each break in?
- e) Was anyone charged with the break in (specify if they were employed by the Department)?
- f) Was anyone convicted of the break in (specify if they were employed by the Department)?

Answer:

2000-01 - Two incidents.

- a) Car broken into parked at Unit 1 (front car park), Cameron Offices, Belconnen ACT. Cost of damage unrecorded.
Unit 3 (Level 2A). Cost of damage unrecorded.
- b) See answer to a) above.
- c) Mobile phone
Small safe, vending machine.
- d) Unknown for both instances. Coins taken from vending machine. Safe was empty.

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- e) Unknown. In first incident person or persons not known to be a ComSuper employee(s). In the second incident, security camera footage shows ComSuper employees not involved.
- f) Unknown in both incidents.

2001-02 - Two incidents.

- a) Perimeter door forced open at level Gc in Unit 1, Cameron offices, Belconnen ACT.
Door broken into at level Ga in Unit 2. Cost of damage unrecorded.
- b) Unrecorded cost of damage in first incident. Nil cost in second incident.
- c) Class B safe.
Unknown.
- d) Safe was moved but unopened.
Nil.
- e) No in first incident.
Unknown in second instance but security camera footage shows ComSuper employees were not involved.
- f) Unknown in first incident. No in respect of second incident.

2002-03 - No incidents.

2003-04 - No incidents.

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Question: F3(27)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

How many thefts of Departmental property occurred in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04? For each incident:

- a) What was stolen in each instance?
- b) What was the value of the stolen item/s?
- c) Where was it stolen from?
- d) Was anyone charged with the theft (specify if they were employed by the Department)?
- e) Was anyone convicted of the theft (specify if they were employed by the Department)?
- f) Were any of the items recovered?

Answer:

2000-01 - Two incidents.

- a) Mobile phone in each incident.
- b) Unknown.
- c) In both incidents from a vehicle. The first incident the car was parked at Unit 1 Cameron offices, Belconnen ACT. Location of the other vehicle at the time is not recorded.
- d) Unknown in respect of the first incident. No in respect of the second incident.
- e) No.
- f) No.

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Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(28)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

How many incidents of fraud were detected against the Department in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04? For each incident:

- a) What was the subject of the fraud in each instance?
- b) What was the value of the fraud?
- c) Which administrative unit was the subject of the fraud?
- d) Was anyone charged with the fraud (specify if they were employed by the Department)?
- e) Was anyone convicted of the fraud (specify if they were employed by the Department)?
- f) Were any of the defrauded items or was any of the defrauded money recovered?

Answer:

2000-01 - None.

2001-02 - None.

2002-03 - One incident.

- a) Identity fraud – one fortnightly pension payment deceitfully claimed by family member following provision of unauthorized bank account change.
- b) Approx \$650
- c) ComSuper Pensions Unit.
- d) No.
- e) No.
- f) Yes.

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2003-04 - One incident.

- a) Identity fraud – in one-instance, pension payments deceitfully claimed by member of the public following the death of a superannuation scheme member.
- b) \$74,632.79.
- c) ComSuper's Pension Unit.
- d) Person has been identified. Currently under investigation before referral to AFP for consideration of laying charges.
- e) Still under investigation.
- f) None pending further investigation.

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Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(29)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

How many incidents of loss (excluding theft, accident, breakage and vandalism) of Departmental property were reported to the Department in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04? For each incident:

- a) What was the loss in each instance?
- b) What was the value of the loss?
- c) Which administrative unit lost the property?
- d) Were any of the lost item/s recovered?
- e) Was anyone disciplined over the loss?

Answer:

Nil.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(30)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

How many vehicular accidents in which Departmental vehicles (including vehicles leased by the Department) were involved were reported to the Department in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04? For each incident:

- a) What was the value of the damage?
- b) Which administrative unit was the vehicle attached to?
- c) Was anyone charged over the accident (specify charges)?

Answer:

Please refer to the Departmental response.

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Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(31)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

How many Ministerial staff does the Department provide?

Answer:

Please refer to the Departmental response.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(32)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

To what Minister or Parliamentary Secretary are they assigned?

Answer:

Please refer to the Departmental response.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(33)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

What is the total cost of these staff?

Answer:

Please refer to the Departmental response.

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Estimates 2004-05 – Supplementary written questions November 2004

Question: F3(34)

Outcome: Comsuper

Topic: Multicultural/Diversity issues

Written Question on Notice: 2 December 2004

Senator Ludwig asked:

Can the Department provide data on how many staff are in each salary band?

Answer:

Please refer to the Departmental response.