

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings 2005-06 – 01 November 2005

Question: F32

Outcome: Australian Electoral Commission

Topic: Performance of Information Technology outsourcing arrangements

Written Question on Notice

Senator Conroy asked:

1. Please provide details of total departmental/organisational spending on Information and Communications Technology products and services during the last 12 months.
2. Please break down this spending by ICT function (eg communications, security, private network, websites).
3. Was this spending in line with budget forecasts for this 12 month period?
 - (a) If not, please provide details of:
 - i. The extent that ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - ii. Details of on specific ICT contracts which resulted in department/organisation spending in excess of budget forecasts for this 12 month period;
 - iii. The reasons ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12 month period.
4. Please provide details of any ICT projects that have been commissioned by the Department/organisation during the past 12 months that have failed to meet designated project time frames (ie have failed to satisfy agreed milestones by agreed dates).
 - (a) For such projects that were not completed on schedule, please provide details of:
 - i. The extent of any delay;
 - ii. The reasons these projects were not completed on time;
 - iii. Any contractual remedies sought by the Department/organisation as a result of these delays (eg penalty payments).
5. Please provide details of any ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months that have materially failed to satisfy project specifications.
6. Please provide details of any ICT projects that were abandoned by the Department/organisation within the last 12 months before the delivery of all project specifications outlined at the time the project was commissioned.

- (a) For such abandoned projects, please provide details of:
- i. Any contractual remedies sought by the Department as a result of the abandonment of these projects.
 - ii. Any costs of re-tendering the ICT project.

Answer:

1. The AEC's spending on Information and Communication Technology specific products and services was \$15,040,874 during the last 12 months.

2. The AEC Information and Communication Technology specific spending for the last 12 months is broken down by function as follows:

Mainframe	\$2,172,115.35
Midrange	\$1,357,315.77
Desktop Services	\$17,324.89
Data Communications	\$3,422,221.45
Security & Account Management	\$85,968.24
Telephone	\$1,209,124.43
Secure Internet Gateway	\$212,869.12
IT Cluster Management	\$33,435.13
ICT Employee	\$1,779,643.00
ICT Contractor	\$2,659,521.00
Miscellaneous	\$827,841.00
Capital Acquisition	\$1,263,495.00

3. Yes.

4. The AEC had one project commissioned in the last 12 months that failed to meet designated project time frames. This project was the implementation of a new Human Resources Information System.

- (a) (i) The project was delayed by 3 months.
(ii) The delay resulted from the project being of greater complexity than originally anticipated.
(iii) Deferred payment of specified milestone payments pending completion of project deliverables.

5. The AEC had no ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months that materially failed to satisfy project specifications.

6. The AEC did not abandon any ICT projects in the last 12 months before the delivery of all project specifications outlined at the time the project was commissioned.