

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings 2006-2007, 30 October 2006

Question: PM 43

Outcome 1, Output 4.3

Topic: Government Communications Unit – advertising, staffing and travel expenses

Direct on Notice:

Senator Evans asked:

1. Please provide a breakdown of any and all advertising campaigns that have been approved by the MCGC, but which are not yet active (in terms of material going to air or in-print). For each campaign, please indicate the nature of the campaign, the anticipated media spend and the anticipated dates when advertising will take place.

Answer: None as at 30 October 2006.

2. Please provide a breakdown of all advertising projects on which the GCU is currently working but which have not yet reached the stage of campaigns approved by the MCGC. For each, please indicate the nature of the campaign, the anticipated media spend and the anticipated dates when advertising will take place as well as the stage in the MCGC process to which each campaign has progressed.

Answer: As indicated during the Senate Estimates hearing, it is not possible to provide these details until a project has become a campaign.

3. Please provide a breakdown of current staffing levels within the GCU as well as a breakdown of the public service grades of staff employed within the unit

Answer:

As at 30 October 2006, the following staff were employed within the GCU:

- 1 x SES Band 1
- 1 x Executive Level 2
- 6.6 x Executive Level 1 (including 0.6 part-time officer)
- 1 x APS5
- 0.5 x APS3 (this officer provided support to the GCU SES Band 1 officer and to another SES officer not in the GCU)

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4. Please provide a breakdown of all travel expenses incurred by the GCU since figures were last provided through the Estimates process. Please breakdown the total and itemise by airfares, ground transport (taxi's etc), accommodation, meals and drinks and incidentals.

Answer:

Travel expenses paid from 1 January 2006 to 31 October 2006, not including AUSPIC, are \$24,436. Travel expenditure is not recorded to the detail asked, however of this total expenditure \$19,017 relates to domestic air travel and \$4,220 relates to ground transport. The remainder is for accommodation, meals, incidentals et cetera.