

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – 19 October 2010

Outcome General, Program General

Topic: Administrative Arrangements Orders

Question reference number: F63

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of Pages: 3

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) Can you detail what changes have occurred in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 September 2010.
 - i. Were there any costs associated with these changes (for example changes to departmental signage or whether refurbishment or additional space will need to be leased to accommodate new staff. Alternatively, will agencies be left with empty office space due to loss of staff). Please provide details
 - ii. Were there any staff changes as a result (staff transferring to or from your agency)? If yes, please detail what the staff changes were, including a breakdown of changes to each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band.
- b) Were there any changes in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 October 2010.
 - i. Were there any costs associated with these changes (for example changes to departmental signage). Please provide details.
 - ii. Were there any staff changes as a result (staff transferring to or from your agency)? If yes, please detail what the staff changes were, including a breakdown of changes to each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band.
- c) Can you describe what, if any, Administrative Arrangements Orders occurred in your portfolio between November 2007 and July 2010? Please detail the costs associated with these.

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Answer:

a)

14 September 2010 Administrative Arrangements Order

- Ownership and property management responsibilities associated with the Official Establishments were transferred to the Australian Government's non-defence domestic property portfolio. Funding associated with the transfer is calculated as at 12 November 2010 and the formal date of effect for the transfer of the operative ownership and property management function was 30 November 2010.
 - i. No.
 - ii. No.

b)

14 October 2010 Administrative Arrangements Order

- Official Establishments, ownership and property was amended to Official Establishments, ownership and property of the Prime Minister's official residences. There were no associated costs or staff changes.
 - i. No.
 - ii. No.

c) Administrative Arrangements Orders changes in the Finance and Deregulation Portfolio between November 2007 and July 2010 are as follows:

3 December 2007 Administrative Arrangements Order

- The Department of Finance and Administration was renamed the Department of Finance and Deregulation;
- Transfer in of the Office of Best Practice Regulation from the Productivity Commission;
- Transfer in of the regulatory reform function from Treasury;
- Transfer in of Auspic from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C);
- Transfer in of the Government's central advertising system from PM&C;
- Transfer in of the National Archives of Australia from the former Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio.

25 January 2008 Administrative Arrangements Order

- Transfer out of the National Archives of Australia to PM&C.

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6 May 2010 Administrative Arrangements Order

- Transfer in of responsibility for policy and administration of retirement benefits for Federal Judges from the Attorney-General's Department;
- Transfer in of responsibility for policy and administration of retirement benefits for Governors-General from PM&C;
- Transfer out of evaluation and audit of Indigenous programs and operations to the Australian National Audit Office;
- New function to provide policy advice on the Nation-building Funds.
- The description of the item relating to the central advertising system was amended to - "Coordination of Government advertising".

Costs associated with these Administrative Arrangements Orders were accommodated within the existing budget. As these costs were incidental, they were not tracked separately at the time and cannot now be quantified.