

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2010

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **News Wire Contract**

Question: **P 6a)–d)**

Written **Senator Kroger**

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

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- a) Please advise what AusTender Contract Notice View CN315142 in the sum of \$291,390 with AAP for “News wire service” entails?
- b) Is it correct that the contract period extends from 11 Nov 2008 to 20 June 2010, yet, the publish date is 28 July 2010?
- c) Is this procedure the normal practice of the Department – issuing notices for contracts after they have expired? Under which circumstances can the Department issue notices for contracts after they have expired?
- d) Does APS currently hold a contract with AAP for news wire services? If yes, please provide details and explain when you will publish this tender.

Answer

- a) AAP provides a news and information service directly to DPS from various news bureaux through an electronic feed.
- b) The contract period was initially from 11 November 2008 to 30 June 2010. The contract was then extended to 30 June 2011, published on 28 July 2010. Unfortunately, when the contract extension notice was posted in AusTender on 28 July 2010, the date field was not updated correctly and the previously published date remained. DPS updated this information with the correct date of 30 June 2011 in AusTender on 25 October 2010—the amended CN is 341102.
- c) No, it is not normal practice—it was an administrative error, as explained above.
- d) DPS’s current contract with AAP (see details in a) above) ends on 30 June 2011.