

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 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM114

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Topic: Consultancies - Expenditure

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

a) How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).

Answer:

Please refer to the response to Question on Notice No PM115.

b) How can the department justify this expenditure?

Answer:

Departmental procurement is undertaken only after the need for the goods or services has been established. All consultancy contracts result from the need for the services to be provided, require independent research or assessment or specialised professional skills which are unavailable within the department.