

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: PM116

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Topic: Consultancies - Status

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 3

a) Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contacts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?

Answer:

Details of reportable procurements are uploaded to AusTender fortnightly. The last such upload was undertaken on 19 November 2010.

b) Have there been any changes in the consultancies that are planned for this calendar year since Budget Estimates 2010? If yes, have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer:

The APP for 2010-2011 does not include any consultancies. Consultancy contracts are usually entered into as the need arises, rather than as a result of long range future planning. The duration and cost of any consultancy and the name of the consultant remain unknown until the completion of the procurement process.

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c) **Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.**

Answer:

Supplier Name	Description	Consultancy Reason(s)	Contract Period
SGS ECONOMICS and PLANNING PTY LIMITED	Develop indicators for Cities planning	Need for specialised or professional skills	28/6/2010 – 30/6/2011
Australian Government Solicitor	Legal advice relating to establishment of a panel - professional contractor services	Need for specialised or professional skills	11/3/2009 – 31/12/2010
Morison Consulting Pty Limited	Independent Audit Committee Member	Need for specialised or professional skills	14/12/2009 – 13/12/2010
Blake Dawson Waldron	Legal advice in relation to implementation of a 'return to service' arrangement	Need for specialised or professional skills	25/10/2010 – 30/11/2010
Australian Government Solicitor	Legal Services - financial delegations (Corporate Services Division)	Need for specialised or professional skills	21/9/2010 – 30/11/2010

Note: The responses above relate to contracts with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet prior to the MOG changes of 14 September 2010. As a result of the Machinery of Government changes PM&C has acquired the functions of parts of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Office for the Arts), the Department of Health and Ageing (Office for Sport) and the Department of Families, Health, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (Not For Profit Sector). The consultancy contracts listed below have been entered into by the previous agencies which relate to these business areas, and to date have not been novated to PM&C.

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Supplier Name	Description	Consultancy Reason(s)	Contract Period
Neville Stevens	Independent Review of the Australia Government's investment into the Indigenous Broadcasting and Media Sector	Need for independent research or assessment	22/7/2010 – 22/1/2011
Laurence Patton	Independent Review of the Australia Government's investment into the Indigenous Broadcasting and Media Sector	Need for specialised or professional skills	18/8/2010 – 22/1/2011
Penangke Pty Ltd, as Trustee for the Liddle Sapio Trust	Independent Review of the Australia Government's investment into the Indigenous Broadcasting and Media Sector	Need for specialised or professional skills	26/8/2010 – 22/1/2011
University of New South Wales	Feasibility study on a proposed foundation for the Artist	Need for specialised or professional skills	7/9/2010 – 31/1/2011
Mariyon Slany	Provide Art Consultant services to service WA clients and develop business	Need for specialised or professional skills	1/7/2007 – 31/12/2010