

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARINGS

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO

Department/Agency: Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Outcome: 1

Topic: Consultancies

Senator: ABETZ

Question reference number: 64

Type of question: Written, Tuesday 19 October 2010

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

- 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).
- b) How can the department justify this expenditure?

Number of pages: 2

Answer:

- a) Consultancies entered into since date of control for finances (1 October 2010):

Consultant:	Grey Advantage Consulting Pty Ltd.
Subject:	Development of a shared services scoping study and benchmarking to support the establishment of the initial structure of the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.
Duration:	1 October – 25 October.
Cost:	\$50,000 (Inclusive of GST).
Method:	Direct Source.

Consultant:	Moore Stephens Canberra Pty Ltd.
Subject:	Development of the initial budget and subsequent costing analysis to establish the Department.
Duration:	1 October – 8 October.
Cost:	\$45,760 (Inclusive of GST).
Method:	Direct Source.

Consultant:	Moore Stephens Canberra Pty Ltd.
Subject:	Undertake a due diligence study of s.32 and s.72 transfers of initial appropriation funding and staff from feeder agencies to the newly established Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.
Duration:	1 October – 22 October.

Cost:	\$11,880 (Inclusive of GST).
Method:	Direct Source

Consultant:	Morison Consulting Pty Limited.
Subject:	The provision of high level financial advice in relation to the establishment of financial processes and structures in the new Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.
Duration:	5 October – 12 November.
Cost:	\$27,500 (Inclusive of GST).
Method:	Direct Source

b) All four consultancies were entered into to provide the Secretary with specialist financial, costing, due diligence and benchmarking skills and support in establishing the new Department.