

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 108

Type of Question: written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 3

Question:

How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?

What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

There has been one report commissioned since 1 July 2012. The answers to the questions are in the table below.

**Question on Notice: 108 - COMMISSIONED REPORTS –
FYTD – (1 July 2012 – 15 October 2012)**

Portfolio: Prime Minister and Cabinet

No.	Title	Date Commissioned	Date Handed to Government	Date of Public Release	Terms of Reference	Committee Members	Cost of Report (GST Incl)	No. of Staff Involved	Level of Staff	Current Status	Government to Respond to Report by When
1	Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers Report	28/06/2012	13/08/2012	13/08/2012	<p>The Panel will provide advice and recommendations to the Government on policy options available, and in its considered opinion, the efficacy of such options, to prevent asylum seekers risking their lives on dangerous boat journeys to Australia. As part of its review, the panel will take into account, and provide policy advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how best to prevent asylum seekers risking their lives by travelling to Australia by boat; • source, transit and destination country aspects of irregular migration; • relevant international obligations; • the development of an inter-related set of proposals in support of asylum seeker issues, given Australia's right to maintain its borders; • short, medium and long term approaches to assist in the development of an effective and sustainable approach to asylum seekers; • the legislative requirements for implementation; and • the order of magnitude of costs of such policy options. 	<p>Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC AFC (Retired)</p> <p>Mr Paris Aristotle AM, Director of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc (also known as Foundation House)</p> <p>Professor Michael L'Estrange AO, Director, National Security College</p>	The cost of the report including GST was \$48,188.25	Thirteen, including staff from PM&C and a range of relevant agencies.	Staff involved in the Secretariat ranged from SES Band 2 to APS6	The report was provided to Government on 13/08/2012	The Government endorsed in principle all the rec's of the report on 13/08/2012.

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					<p>The Panel will consult government and non-government organisations and individuals. It will have access to the information it requires to support its deliberations and finalise its advice.</p> <p>The Panel will consult with the Multi-Party Reference Group to understand and take into account the views of the Parliament.</p> <p>The Panel will provide advice to the Prime Minister and Minister for Immigration and Citizenship prior to the start of the next sitting period in August 2012. The Panel's advice will be released publicly.</p> <p>Terms of reference are available from www.expertpanelonasyumseekers.dpmc.gov.au/terms</p>						