

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26-27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(121) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

(1) How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? 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).

(2) Please also include the total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded. Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.

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

(4) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? 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, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer:

(1)-(2) All agencies that are subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* are required to report procurement contracts awarded where the contract value is \$10,000 or more. These are reported on AusTender, the government's tender and procurement reporting system. From 3 September 2007 departments and agencies have been required to include on AusTender details of those contracts which are consultancies and the reason for the consultancy. The information sought by the honourable Senator in relation to consultancies valued at \$10,000 or more is therefore available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au), noting that departments have six weeks to report procurement contracts on AusTender.

(3) Yes.

(4) All planned procurements, including consultancies, are published in the Annual Procurement Plans for Department of Immigration and Citizenship, which are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au).