

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(410) Program: Internal Product**

Senator Barnett asked:

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:*

In accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, the department publishes details of all consultancy contracts on AusTender.

Each contract published on AusTender includes a description of the services to be provided. The contract description provides information regarding the intended consultancy contract deliverable.

Information published on AusTender also includes a justification reason for each consultancy contract entered into. These justification reasons are aligned with the reasons specified by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in their Requirement for Annual Reports guidance material. These reasons include:

- A – skills currently unavailable within the agency
- B – need for specialised skills
- C – need for independent research or assessment

The department's Annual Report for 2009-10 lists details of all consultancy contracts that were entered into with a value of \$10,000 or more. The 2009-10 Annual Report shows that the department entered into 72 new consultancy contracts with a value of \$9.87 million.