

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 01

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Staffing and Budget

Hansard Page: 108 (15/02/07)

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—What was the total staffing budget for 2004-05 and for 2005-06?

Ms Pegrum—The budget for salary expenditures for 2006-07 is \$7,871,000. I am happy to take another question while our officers are looking for that answer for last year.

Senator LUNDY—Sure. I am keen on the figures both retrospectively and into the future up to 2009-10. I know we have your appropriations up to 2009-10 as the result of an answer to a question on notice last time, but we would like the staffing budget for all those out years.

Ms Pegrum—I would be happy to provide that. What I can tell you is that we currently have 94 paid employees and that is the equivalent of 88.44 full-time employees. Of those, 28 are ELs, there are five SES and 60 at the APS levels.

Senator LUNDY—How much has that grown in the last five years?

Ms Pegrum—I would have to go back to the figures, but we have been fairly stable. Over five years we may have actually reduced. But I am very happy to give you the figures. My recollection is that that is relatively stable.

Answer:

Financial Year	Employee Expenses (\$)	Number of Ongoing Employees	Number of Non-ongoing Employees	Total Employees	Full-time Equivalent Staff Numbers
Actual					
2002/03	6,183,000	73	16	89	83.6
2003/04	6,611,000	70	15	85	81.5
2004/05	6,854,000	77	15	92	79.7
2005/06	6,896,000	79	18	97	82.1
2006/07	7,871,000	67	27	94	88.17
Budgeted					
2007/08	8,201,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008/09	8,208,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009/10	8,216,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Question: NCA 02

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Adelaide Avenue – Development Control Plan

Hansard Page: 111 (15/02/07)

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—But you have also ascertained, in the knowledge that there may be some application for a lease purpose change under the Territory Plan, that there may be a subsequent consultation process under the Territory Plan requirements post the approval of this development control plan.

Ms Pegrum—Under the Territory lease requirements.

Mr Rohl—Yes, that is the advice we received from ACTPLA on 13 February.

Ms Pegrum—I think that will only apply, though, to the gallery site, not to the Embassy Hotel site or to the residential site.

Senator LUNDY—Is that because the lease purpose change had already occurred or because it did not need to occur?

Ms Pegrum—It does not need to occur, as far as we can tell.

Senator LUNDY—So there is already a proponent? There is already a developer?

Ms Pegrum—That is right.

Senator LUNDY—But there is not for the Solander Gallery site?

Mr Rohl—The Territory Plan itself and the lease clause, as far as I am aware, is very narrow in relation to what can happen to the Solander Gallery site. The advice we received is that, for any future development done in accordance with that, there is likely to be a lease change. In terms of the Embassy site, I would have to clarify the existing lease clause. I would expect that if, for example, a hotel developed there, unlike the current one, you would not need to go through that revised lease process, but I can certainly clarify that.

Senator LUNDY—Yes, could you take that on notice.

Answer:

The current lease for the Solander Gallery site is for a gallery and offices up to a maximum gross floor area of 500 square metres. The overall gross floor area restriction is 900 square metres. The Development Control Plan broadens the potential uses which would potentially trigger a lease variation.

The current lease for the Embassy site is motel purposes only. The Development Control Plan broadens the potential uses, in line with the Territory Plan, which would potentially trigger a lease variation.

The ACT Government advised the NCA on 15 March 2007 that when applying for a variation of a lease, public notification is required under Section 229 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991.

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Question: NCA 03

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Recruitment Agency Spending

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

What sum was spent on recruitment agencies in 2006 by each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

In the 2005-2006 financial year, the NCA spent \$33,339.90 (excluding GST) on the services of recruitment agencies.

In the financial year to 12 March 2007, the NCA has spent \$56,755.59 (excluding GST) on the services of recruitment agencies.

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Question: NCA 04

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Recruitment Agency Spending

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

Will the Minister provide a list of the recruitment agencies which are used by the Department and Agencies in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

The NCA utilises the recruitment support services of the following agencies:

- Hays Personnel Services (Australia) Pty Ltd;
- Hudson Global Resources (Australia) Pty Ltd;
- Quadrate Solutions; and
- Profile Ray & Berndtson.

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Question: NCA 05

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Recruitment Agency Spending

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

What functions do recruitment agencies perform for Departments and what would be the likely impact on departmental outcomes from reduction in recruitment spending on external agencies?

Answer:

Recruitment agencies have been engaged to deliver services including:

- temporary staff relief (short-term contract); and
- recruitment of senior or specialised positions;

The likely impact on the National Capital Authority's outcomes as a result of a reduction in recruitment spending on external agencies could include:

- an increase in employee expenses to employ dedicated persons to manage the National Capital Authority's recruitment activities;
- longer, repeated and more costly advertising and recruitment exercises to recruit 'hard to fill' specialised or senior positions;
- restrictions on the accessibility to potentially suitable candidates with no access to a recruitment agency's candidate talent pools; and
- increase on work pressures and current resources due to positions not being filled in a reasonable timeframe.

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Question: NCA 06

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Recruitment Agency Spending

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

What benefit-cost assessments have been done which benchmark internal recruitment processes and/ or on utilising on line recruitment portals?

Answer:

The NCA has not performed benefit-cost assessments.

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Question: NCA 07

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Opinion Polls/Market Research

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

What sum was spent on opinion polls, focus groups or market research in 2006 by each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

The National Capital Authority spent \$29,122.50 on market research for the National Perceptions Survey in financial year 2005-06.

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Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 08

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Opinion Polls/Market Research

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

Will the Ministers provide a list of the opinion polls, focus groups, or market research agencies what are used by Department and Agencies in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

The National Capital Authority engaged the Centre for Tourism Research, University of Canberra to undertake the National Perceptions Survey in financial year 2005-06.

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Question: NCA 09

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Opinion Polls/Market Research

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

How much of the opinion polls, focus groups or market research expenditure of Agencies or Departments was conducted at the request of the Minister's office?

Answer:

Nil.

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Question: NCA 10

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Opinion Polls/Market Research

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

What benefit-cost assessments have been done which assess the returns from opinion polls, focus groups of market research?

Answer:

The National Capital Authority has not conducted a benefit-cost assessment for its sole research project.

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Question: NCA 11

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Advertising Campaigns

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

What sum was spent on each of the active advertising campaigns for each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

The National Capital Authority has no currently active advertising campaigns. In the financial year 2006-07 to March 2007, the NCA spent \$43131.56 (excluding GST) on advertising campaigns.

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Question: NCA 12

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Advertising Campaigns

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

Below is a list of active campaigns that were tabled on 30 October 2006 at Senate Estimates, what were the actual costs for those which have been completed as relevant to each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio?

- Bushfire Preparedness - AGD
- People Trafficking - AGD
- Family Law Reform - AGD/FACSIA
- Bird Flu (05/06) - AQIS
- Quarantine Matters! (Jul 06 – Dec 06)- AQIS
- 30% Childcare Tax Rebate - ATO
- Defence Force Recruiting (2006-2007) - Defence
- Skills For the Future - DEST
- Welfare to Work - DEWR
- Citizenship (06/07) - DIMA
- T3 - DOFA
- Eliminating Violence Against Women (2006) - FACSIA
- Financial Literacy - Treasury.

Answer:

Not applicable.

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Question: NCA 13

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Advertising Campaigns

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

At the Budget Estimates in May 2006, the Budget Papers listed the following Pending Campaigns (from Budget Papers: period up to 4 years).

Campaign	\$M
Smart Card	47.3
Child Support Reform	36.1
Promote Private Health Cover	52.1
Medicare Direct Mail	17.5
New Family Law Arrangements	19.9
Independent Contractors	<15
Pensions Real Estate/Assets Test	5.9 (at least, over 2 years)
Smart Traveller	13.1
Alcohol Abuse	25.2
Citizenship	4
Disease Risk Factors	
Child Care Rebate	
Family Law Arrangements	
Illicit Drugs and Mental Illness	
Living in Harmony Initiative	

For those campaigns which are relevant to each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio, what is the:

- (a) planning progress for campaigns;
- (b) likely start dates; and
- (c) media spend.

Answer:

Not applicable.

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Question: NCA 14

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Advertising Campaigns

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

For Campaign Advertising in each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio, what is the:

- (a) cost;
- (b) frequency; and
- (c) type/medium (e.g. print, television, radio) of campaign advertising for this financial year?

Can this information be provided on a monthly basis for the financial year?

Answer:

Campaign	Cost	Frequency		Medium
Griffin Legacy Public Consultation	\$15,048.74 ex GST	August-September 2006	10	Print
Capitals Alliance Conference	\$3,871.10 ex GST	November 2006 and January 2007	6	Print
Australia Day Live	\$24,211.72 ex GST	January 2007	12	Print
			17 x 30 sec spots	Television
			48 x 30 sec spots	Radio

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Question: NCA 15

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Water Use in Departments and Agencies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

Is there any requirement to provide details of how much water is used and how much water is saved in the annual reports of each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

No. Nil grants allocated by the National Capital Authority.

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Question: NCA 16

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Water Use in Departments and Agencies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

Is water usage monitored for each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

The National Capital Authority monitors the amount of water used in managing the national assets of the public domain in the central national areas of Canberra.

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Question: NCA 17

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Water Use in Departments and Agencies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

What is the water usage for each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

In managing the national assets of the public domain in the central national areas of Canberra, the National Capital Authority used 601 mega litres of water in the 2005-06 financial year.

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Question: NCA 18

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Water Use in Departments and Agencies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Wong asked:

For each Department and Agency in the Minister's portfolio, can information be provided on whether dual flush toilets are in place in the buildings they occupy?

Answer:

The National Capital Authority has dual flush toilets in the buildings it occupies except one maintenance depot which contains a 'single flush' toilet.

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Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 19

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Grants

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to all grants allocated by the Department/Agency from 1 January 2002, could a table detailing the following information be provided:

- a. The name of the grant program
- b. The name of the grant recipient
- c. The ABN of the grant recipient (where available)
- d. The value of the grant awarded
- e. The date the grant was awarded
- f. The state of the grant recipient
- g. The postcode of the grant recipient.

Answer:

Nil grants allocated by the National Capital Authority.