

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 57

Topic: Staffing - Recruitment FYTD

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
2. How many non ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
3. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

1. Between the beginning of the 2011-12 financial year and 24 May 2012, there was a net reduction of approximately 40 ongoing staff in the Department. The staff recruited during this period were from APS4 through to SES Band1 classifications.
2. There were 9 non-ongoing positions that existed in DRALGAS as at 24 May 2012. These staff are APS4-5 and EL1-2 classifications.
3. As at 24 May 2012, there had been 46 people employed as contractors in the financial year to date, for an average period of 2 months. As at 24 May 2012, there were 10 people engaged on contracts.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 58

Topic: Staffing Changes - 2012-13 Budget

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Provide details of what staffing changes have occurred in DRALGAS from the 2012-13 Budget. Provide a list of additional and/or redundant positions, the classification and the program those positions are part of or have been taken from.

Answer:

There was an annualised budget reduction of \$14.9m from the 2011-12 financial year to the 2012-13 financial year. This reduction has been met through reductions in supplier and staffing costs. In order to achieve these reductions, the Department revised its priorities and rebalanced resources across all areas of the Department and it is therefore difficult to accurately list the classification levels of impacted staff.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 59

Topic: Staffing - SES Positions FYTD

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Please list the SES positions you have in DRALGAS in this financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions.

Answer:

The following table outlines the number of SES positions and their status in this financial year to date.

SES classification level	Number of permanent positions	Number of temporary positions
SES Band 3	4	0
SES Band 2	7	0
SES Band 1	24	1
Total	35	1

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 60

Topic: Staffing - Graduates

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Will there be any training after the 2012 Calendar year for 2012 Graduates?

If yes, please details including costs and what the training is.

Answer:

Following the completion of the Graduate Program, these employees will be able to access the range of Departmental Learning and Development opportunities, including Study Assistance.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 61

Topic: Costs for recruiting Graduates

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

What was the cost for recruiting 2012 Graduates? Please itemise and detail costs.

Answer:

The Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport seconds Graduates from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Department pays salaries and program costs, but not costs for recruitment.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 62

Topic: Government Advertising

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 3

1. What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?
2. Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
3. Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
4. Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
5. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.
6. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
7. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is DRALGAS undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Answer:

1. \$356,777.35
2. Non-campaign.
 - Adcorp provided the services
 - Expressions of Interest for eight RDA Committees was \$74,748.89
 - Tender advertising for air services to Norfolk Island - \$7,952.30
 - Consultation on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government - \$123,032.25
 - Recruitment advertising - \$31,119.44
 - Jervis Bay Territories Administration – For sale by tender decommissioned assets - \$439.25
 - Christmas Island – community consultation for the Christmas Island fuel consolidation project - \$164.94
 - Prime Minister’s Literary Awards - \$6,219.18
 - Indigenous Funding Radio Advertising - \$12,680.05
 - Lending Rights advertising - \$7,529.58
 - Contemporary Touring Initiative and Visions Australia funding programs - \$2,824.45
 - Artbank - \$11,244.51 (1 February to 31 May 2012 only) to promote Artbank’s art rental scheme through adwords, radio 2GB
 - National Portrait Gallery - \$78,822.51 advertising to promote the Gallery’s events, including advertising in the *Panorama*, Canberra Times and the Sydney Morning Herald.
3. No.
4. No.
5. Advertising was booked through the Government’s non-campaign media buying agency Adcorp and complies with the Guidelines.

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6.

Communications Program	Program Details	Total Spend inc GST	Service Provider
Prime Minister's Literary Awards	Design and production of promotional materials	\$11,247.93	Papercut Blue Star Print Paragon Printers
Regional Development Australia	Promotion of RDA to stakeholders and provision of communications products to RDA committees. Includes production of communications materials.	\$18,939.80 (print) \$41,087.40	Blue Star Print Screencraft Paddywack
National Awards for Local Government	Promotion of 2012 Awards program to key stakeholders.	\$37,743 (Video) \$9,463 (LG Focus Magazine) \$18,827 (graphic design / printing)	Bearcage LG Focus Giraffe

7. The Department has planned non-campaign advertising to support the Prime Minister's Literary Awards.

Communications programs (non advertising) to promote the Prime Minister's Literary Awards and other communications supporting arts specific funding programs (regional arts touring, Indigenous arts, culture and languages, public and education lending rights) will be ongoing for the rest of the financial year.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 63

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 6

1. What is DRALGAS's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
3. What is DRALGAS's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
5. What hospitality spend is DRALGAS planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
6. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
7. What entertainment spend is DRALGAS planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
8. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
9. Is DRALGAS planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Answer:

1. Expenses relating to official hospitality events paid by the Department since Additional Estimates 2011-12 for the period from 1 February to 31 May 2012 totalled \$33,957.96.

Description of function	Date/ Location	Amount \$ (GST excl)	How the function supports government business
Meeting between the Ministerial Advisory Council on Regional Australia (MACRA) National Food Plan Sub-group – provision of light refreshments and lunch	1 February 2012, Canberra	269.18	To enable Ministerial Advisory Council on Regional Australia to provide input into the development of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry National Food Plan Green Paper.
Lunch with Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA)	9 February 2012, South Australia	82.18	Relationship building with Local Government MOU partners in SA.
Dinner meeting of the Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate, the National Disaster Recovery Taskforce and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority during the Inspectorate's visit to Central Queensland on 16-17 February 2012	16 February 2012, Rockhampton QLD	469.09	To enable members of the Reconstruction Inspectorate, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, National Disaster Recovery Taskforce and the expert consultant to continue discussions arising from the visit to three disaster-affected local government areas in Central Queensland.
Circle of Friends - Portrait Table Lunch	16 February 2012, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra	1,209.28	To promote the NPG exhibition Historical Memorials Collection and the membership program. 74 guests attended. The total event cost was \$4,236.55. Offset through payments from guests totalling to \$3,027.27 exc GST.
National Portrait Gallery (NPG) Board Dinner	23 February 2012 Barton, Canberra	545.45	To improve support for the NPG activities.
Light refreshments and lunch with the SA Government and Regional Development Australia (RDA) Yorke & Mid North	28 February 2012, South Australia	149.45	To enable stakeholders to assist with the development of place-based initiatives in the Upper Spencer Gulf.
Morning tea and lunch for North Queensland Irrigated Agriculture Strategy (NQIAS) Steering Committee	13 March 2012, Townsville QLD	436.36	To progress the coordination of activities between participating agencies and ensure the Strategy is delivering on its intent.

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Description of function	Date/ Location	Amount \$ (GST excl)	How the function supports government business
Dinner with Norfolk Island Government Representatives	15 March 2012, Canberra	178.64	To strengthen the relationships between Norfolk Island government and Commonwealth government to deliver the Norfolk Island road map.
Meeting with Murray-Darling Basin Consultants – provision of light refreshments	19 March 2012, Canberra	60.27	To support the analysis of economic diversification opportunities in regional communities across the Murray – Darling Basin.
Launch - National Photographic Portrait Prize (NPPP) Exhibition	19 March 2012 National Portrait Gallery, Canberra	9,424	To promote the NPG exhibition NPPP. 609 guests attended. The total event cost was \$21,924. The total cost was offset by Sponsorship from Visa totalling \$12,500 ex GST.
Working Group Meeting on Match-Fixing – provision of light refreshments	28 March 2012, Melbourne- Cricket's Australia Offices	361.25	To support consultation with national sporting organisations necessary to develop a work program and tools to assist sports to implement integrity measures.
Working Group Meeting on Match-Fixing – provision of light refreshments	29 March 2012, Sydney- National Rugby League Learning Centre	225.00	To support consultation with national sporting organisations necessary to develop a work program and tools to assist sports to implement integrity measures.
Green Grid Delegation Lunch – Delegation presented to Commonwealth Government Agencies on a proposal to transmit renewable energy from South Australia to the eastern states	2 April 2012, Canberra	190.91	To support consultation with regional stakeholders and to facilitate the transfer of information on regional priorities with various government agencies.
Northern Queensland Strategy meeting with 9 community and council members – provision of lunch and light refreshments	2 April 2012, Townsville QLD	327.27	To progress activities under the Northern Queensland Strategy. Northern Queensland Strategy comprises two initiatives that focus on industry diversification and workforce development in the region and involves the Queensland Government, Vice Chancellor James Cook University and four local Regional Development Australia Committees. The meeting was

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Description of function	Date/ Location	Amount \$ (GST excl)	How the function supports government business
			held to progress activities under the strategy and working lunch provided to maximise input from attendees' time.
Morning tea and lunch for North Queensland Irrigated Agriculture Strategy (NQIAS) Governance Committee	3 April 2012, Townsville QLD	272.73	To progress activities under the NQIAS. The \$10 million NQIAS will deliver a comprehensive assessment of sustainable water resource development and the potential for new irrigated agriculture. This was a meeting of the Governance Committee held to progress /authorise activities under the Strategy and working morning tea/lunch provided to maximise input from the attendees' time.
Meeting with MACRA sub-group – provision of lunch and light refreshments	5 April 2012, Sydney	836.36	To provide advice to government on proposed economic diversification projects to support communities in the Murray Darling Basin.
The Western Australian and Northern Territory Advisory Committee formal dinner	11 April 2012, Perth	3,814.86	To facilitate and enhance strong cross-regional engagement by RDA committees in WA and to build links between those RDA committees and the RDA NT Committee, and with the Department.
Local Government Grants Commission workshop and official dinner	11-12 April 2012, Canberra	1,737.01	Workshop is to support effective administration of the Financial Assistance Grants.
Lunch – President, CEO and RDA Wheatbelt personnel	12 April 2012, Northam WA	169.09	To engage with the RDA Wheatbelt committee to ensure strong and robust ties are maintained and support linkages and networks between the RDA and local government in WA; to develop a greater understanding of the issues confronting RDAs and the details of RDA activities; and examine completed and progressing

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Description of function	Date/ Location	Amount \$ (GST excl)	How the function supports government business
			projects that received significant Commonwealth funding and gain and better understanding of the benefits derived to the community.
Meeting with World Anti-Doping Agency – provision of light refreshments	2 May 2012, National Measurement Institute Sydney	434.28	To discuss the review of the World Anti-Doping Code with WADA, Director General and the Australian sports sector.
Morning tea and lunch for North Queensland Irrigated Agriculture Strategy (NQIAS) Steering Committee	3 May 2012, Townsville QLD	436.36	To progress activities under the NQIAS. This meeting built on the objectives of the 3 April meeting to progress the coordination of activities between participating agencies and ensure the Strategy is delivering on its intent.
Lunch meeting with MACRA Member to discuss Port Augusta meeting and site visits	8 May 2012, Adelaide	66.64	Support the Ministerial Advisory Council on Regional Australia and place-based initiatives in the Upper Spencer Gulf.
Ministerial Advisory Council on Regional Australia Meeting – provision of lunch and light refreshments	17 May 2012, Port Augusta SA	1,042.27	The Ministerial Advisory Council on Regional Australia roundtable meeting held in the Upper Spencer Gulf region to discuss with local community and industry leaders economic diversification opportunities and challenges facing the region.
Northern Queensland Strategy meeting – provision of lunch and light refreshments	29 May 2012, Cairns QLD	310.95	To progress activities under the Northern Queensland Strategy. This meeting built on the objectives of the 3 April and 3 May meetings to progress the coordination of activities between participating agencies and ensure the Strategy is delivering on its intent.
Launch - Elegance in Exile Exhibition	31 May 2012 National Portrait Gallery, Canberra	10,909.09	To promote the NPG exhibition Elegance in Exile. 400 guests attended.
Total Official Hospitality		\$33,957.97	

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2. Expenses relating to official hospitality events for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary are paid by the Department and included in the answer above.
3. The Department's spend on entertainment for this financial year to date is nil.
4. The spend on entertainment for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office for this financial year to date is nil.
5. The planned hospitality spend by the Department to 30 June 2012 is \$6,980.00.

Event	Date/Location	Estimated Cost \$
Dinner meeting of the Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate, the National Disaster Recovery Taskforce and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority during the Inspectorate's visit to Northern Queensland on 25-27 June	26 June 2012, Ingham QLD	700
Working lunch meeting of the senior officials supporting the COAG Regional Australia Standing Council	5 June 2012, Canberra	240
National Awards for Local Government – provision of light refreshments and lunch	19 June 2012 National Convention Centre, Canberra	3,200
Northern Australia Beef Industry Roundtable – provision of light refreshments and lunch	26 June 2012, Location TBD	750
NQIAS Governance Committee Meeting	5 June 2012, Townsville QLD	290
Circle of Friends Portrait Table Lunch	15 June 2012, Canberra	1,800

6. The planned official hospitality expenses for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office would be paid by the Department and included in the answer above.
7. The Department's planned spending on entertainment is nil.
8. No entertainment spend is planned for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office.
9. The Department is ensuring that only essential expenditure is incurred. A number of projects requiring forums with external stakeholders will be coming to a completion at the end of this financial year and will not be required next year.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 64

Topic: Board Appointments

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.
2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
3. Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date.

Answer:

The Department reports on all board appointments made by Government across the portfolio through Senate Order 13. Senate Order 13 reports are tabled three times a year, no later than seven days before the commencement of each Senate Estimates hearing. The following Senate Order 13 reports from the Department include all board appointments from 1 July 2011:

- 1 May 2011 – 26 September 2011
- 27 September 2011 – 23 January 2012
- 24 January 2012 – 30 April 2012

Gender ratios by folio are published in the Women on Australian Government Boards Report 2010-11, available on line at:

www.fahcsia.gov.au/women/news/2012/gender-balance-on-australian-government-boards-report-2010-2011

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 65

Topic: Freedom of Information

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

1. Has DRALGAS received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. What is the total cost to DRALGAS to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
3. How many FOI requests has DRALGAS received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet regularly issue advice to Commonwealth agencies. Since the Department's response to Senator Humphries question on notice 75 at Additional Estimates, updated advice has been issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and is available on their website at www.oaic.gov.au/publications/index.html. The Department complies with these guidelines.
2. The Department provides an estimate of charges for each FOI application. This does not include all FOI related costs. The Department does not collect this information.
3. As at 31 May 2012, 13 new FOI requests have been received by the Department since responding to Senator Humphries question on notice number 75, which covered the period 1 July 11 to 16 February 2012.

Of the 13 new requests received: 1 request was released in full; 3 requests were released in part; 4 requests were withdrawn and 5 requests currently remain on hand.

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Three requests for information were released later than the statutory processing time, following prior consultation with the relevant applicants, exceeding processing timeframes by between two to three weeks. One FOI request remains outstanding. There were a range of factors that contributed to the timing of the release of these documents, including the complexities of these requests.

4. The Department has not issued any conclusive certificates.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 66

Topic: Community Cabinet Meetings

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

1. What was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?
2. How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended? List date and location.
3. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Ministerial Staff attend? List date and location.
4. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location.
5. What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. The Department of Finance and Deregulation is responsible for Ministerial travel and expenses.
2. In the 2011-12 financial year, Minister Crean has attended two Community Cabinet meetings:
 - Werribee Community Cabinet – 9 November 2011
 - Parramatta Community Cabinet – 4 April 2012

Minister Lundy attended the Parramatta Community Cabinet on 4 April 2012.

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3. Five ministerial staff travelled with Minister Crean and three ministerial staff travelled with Minister Lundy to Community Cabinet meetings.
 - Werribee Community Cabinet – 9 November 2011 – 3 ministerial staff attended with Minister Crean
 - Parramatta Community Cabinet – 4 April 2012 – 2 ministerial staff attended with Minister Crean and 3 ministerial staff attended with Minister Lundy

The Department of Finance and Deregulation is responsible for Ministerial Staff travel and expenses.

4. Three departmental officers attended community cabinet meetings:
 - Werribee Community Cabinet – 9 November 2011 – one departmental officer attended with Minister Crean
 - Parramatta Community Cabinet – 4 April 2012 – one departmental officer attended with Minister Crean and one departmental officer attended with Minister Lundy

The total cost was \$3417 - flights \$2560; accommodation \$214; meals and incidentals (including taxis) \$643.

5. The total cost for the Department for the financial year to date is \$3417. The costs for the Ministers and their staff are the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 67

Topic: Reviews FYTD

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 3

For this financial year to date:

- How many Reviews are being undertaken?
- What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded
- Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
- What reviews are planned?
- When will each of these reviews be concluded?

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Answer:

As at 31 May 2012, the following reviews for the 2011-12 financial year were completed or in progress:

Name of Review	Concluded? Yes or No	If no, date review will be concluded	Date provided to Government	Date of Government response	Cost	Is this a planned review?	Date of conclusion for planned review
Review of the Existing Child and Family Support Services on Norfolk Island	Yes, April 2012	Not applicable	April 2012	Yet to be determined	\$45,455	Not applicable	Not applicable
Review of National Capital Authority	Yes, 13 October 2011	Not applicable	13 October 2011	May 2012	\$79,990 (GST inclusive)	Not applicable	Not applicable
The Review of the Australia Council	Yes, December 2011	May 2012	May 2012	The Government will respond through the development of the National Cultural Policy	\$58,480 (GST inclusive)	Not applicable	Not applicable
Review of Private Sector Support for the Arts	Yes, 31 October 2011	Not applicable	31 October 2011	The Government will respond through the development of the National Cultural Policy	\$85,400 (GST exclusive)	Not applicable	Not applicable
The Strategic Review of Football in Australia	Yes, 30 November 2011	Not applicable	30 November 2011	Yet to be determined	\$117,650 (GST exclusive)	Not applicable	Not applicable
Review of the Australian Sports Foundation	No	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	Yes	Yet to be determined
Norfolk Island Public Service Review	Yes, 1 Dec 2011	Not applicable	February 2012	Yet to be determined	\$184,650 (GST inclusive)	Not applicable	Not applicable

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Review of the operation of the Inter-Governmental Agreement Establishing Principles Guiding Inter-Governmental Relations on Local Government Matters ('the IGA')	Yes, November 2011	Not applicable	November 2011 (as part of Local Government Ministers' Forum)	November 2011 (as part of Local Government Ministers' Forum)	Nil	Not applicable	Not applicable
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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 68

Topic: Consultancies

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 5

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. 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. As at 31 May 2012, 19 new consultancies, totalling \$523,265 have been entered into since responding to Senator Joyce's question on notice, which covered the period 1 November 2011 to 31 January 2012. A listing is provided at [Attachment A](#).

Since responding to Senator Joyce's question on notice the following contract variations have been processed:

- a consultancy arrangement entered into with RMCG Standen Family Trust & Others was varied to \$299,860 and the end date extended from 29 March 2012 to 30 June 2012 to develop further regional economic and diversification proposals for Murray-Darling Basin.
- a consultancy arrangement entered into with Marsden Jacob Associates Pty Ltd was varied to \$318,000 and the end date extended from 29 March 2012 to 30 June 2012 to develop further regional economic and diversification proposals for Murray-Darling Basin.

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2. No consultancies that satisfy the criteria for inclusion in the Annual Procurement Plan have been identified for this calendar year. The Department is currently compiling information to update the APP for publication on the AusTender by 1 July 2012 in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

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Attachment A

Consultancies registered 1 February 2012 – 31 May 2012

#	Supplier Name	Description	Procurement Method	Start Date	End Date	Value (GST Inc. AUD)
1	HALL AND PARTNERS OPEN MIND	Myregion website developmental research project	Direct	14-Feb-12	30-Mar-12	\$76,395
2	PETER N LYONS PTY LTD	Expert advice to the Reconstruction Inspectorate on reconstruction activity in Central Queensland	Direct	15-Feb-12	19-Feb-12	\$6,160
3	COLLABFORGE PTY LTD	Myregion website strategic engagement project	Direct	20-Feb-12	31-May-12	\$50,000
4	PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF AUSTRALIA PTY	Tier two review of disaster reconstruction projects	Panel	21-Feb-12	20-Apr-12	\$42,916
5	RIDER LEVETT BUCKNALL QLD PTY LTD	Tier two review of disaster reconstruction projects	Panel	1-Mar-12	20-Apr-12	\$12,021
6	SWEETT (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	Tier two review of disaster reconstruction projects	Panel	5-Mar-12	31-May-12	\$70,642

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

#	Supplier Name	Description	Procurement Method	Start Date	End Date	Value (GST Inc. AUD)
7	APPLET JAM PTY LTD	Project coordination services for the North Queensland Regional Development Initiative	Direct	2-Apr-12	31-Jul-12	\$112,500
8	PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF AUSTRALIA PTY	Tier two review of disaster reconstruction projects	Panel	10-Apr-12	23-May-12	\$34,302
9	PETER N LYONS PTY LTD	Expert advice to the Reconstruction Inspectorate on reconstruction activity in Central Queensland	Direct	9-May-12	30-Jun-12	\$6,160
10	SANDSTAR FILMS PTY LTD	Independent Film Assessment to assess an application for certification for film tax offsets	Direct	7-Jan-12	31-Jan-12	\$3,630
11	WESTSIDE FILM AND TELEVISION	Independent Film Assessment to assess an application for certification for film tax offsets	Direct	5-Mar-12	1-Apr-12	\$2,750
12	HELEN WATTS	Independent Film Assessment to assess an application for certification for film tax offsets	Direct	19-Mar-12	20-Apr-12	\$4,050
13	ASHURST AUSTRALIA	Legal advice	Direct	23-Mar-12	27-Apr-12	\$10,213

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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#	Supplier Name	Description	Procurement Method	Start Date	End Date	Value (GST Inc. AUD)
14	COMATOES FILMS PTY LTD	Independent Film Assessment to assess an application for certification for film tax offsets	Direct	03-Apr-12	30-Apr-12	\$3,960
15	WESTSIDE FILM AND TELEVISION	Independent Film Assessment to assess an application for certification for film tax offsets	Direct	11-May-12	15-Jun-12	\$2,750
16	SANDSTAR FILMS PTY LTD	Independent Film Assessment to assess an application for certification for film tax offsets	Direct	11-May-12	30-Jun-12	\$3,630
17	DATA ANALYSIS AUSTRALIA	Comparative report of the Public Lending Right 2011-12 Survey	Direct	16-Feb-12	30-Jun-12	\$20,000
18	MS LEIGH TABRETT	Consultant to the final states of the development of the National Cultural Policy	Direct	01-Feb-12	20-Apr-12	\$25,000
19	MCGRATH NICOL	Governance Review of the National Institute of Circus Arts	Direct	14-Mar-12	17-May-12	\$36,186

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 69

Topic: Media Monitoring

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date?
 - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - b. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2011-12?
 - c. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?
2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to DRALGAS for this financial year to date?
 - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - b. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2011-12?
 - c. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?

Answer:

Media monitoring services are provided for both the Ministers' offices and the Department as one contract with no separation of service delivery or costs. Figures below include copyright costs.

- a. Media Monitors
- b. Budget was \$438,749.58 (GST Excl)
- c. Since responding to Additional Estimates Q79, asked by Senator Humphries, the additional cost of providing media monitoring services has been \$194,161.37. This covers the period 1 February 2012 – 31 May 2012.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 70

Topic: Social Media

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issued. If no, please explain why not.

Answer:

No. The Department protocols for the use of social media did not require revision to be consistent with the Circular.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 71

Topic: Contractors

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

For this financial year to date:

1. Has DRALGAS ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
2. Has DRALGAS ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
3. Has DRALGAS ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
4. Has DRALGAS ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
5. Has DRALGAS ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
6. Has DRALGAS ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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7. Has DRALGAS ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
8. Has DRALGAS ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
9. Has DRALGAS ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.
10. What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).

Answer:

The Department has not employed nor is consideration being given to employing any of the above mentioned suppliers.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 72

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. Could DRALGAS provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
2. Has DRALGAS complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answer:

1. The details of all approved grants are available on the Department's website at:
www.regional.gov.au/department/grants/index.aspx.
2. Yes.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 73

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 6

1. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in DRALGAS 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.
 - a. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
 - b. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

As at 31 May 2012, the following commissioned reports were in progress:

Commissioned Report Title FYTD	Start Date	Completion Date	Cost	Staff Involved	Date provided to Government	Date of Public Release	Terms of Reference	Committee Members	Date of Government Response
Norfolk Island Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan	07/10/2011	04/03/2012	\$170,000 (GST exclusive)	1xEL1 1xAPS6	06/03/2012	09/03/2012	To develop specific policies and support measures to stimulate ideas and enable sustainable economic growth for Norfolk Island.	Not applicable	Yet to be determined

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Australian Coal, Iron Ore and LNG Outlook to 2025	01/04/2012	30/03/2012	\$200,000 (GST exclusive) DRALGAS, contribution \$200,000 DRET)	1xEL1 1xAPS5	June 2012	2 July 2012	To provide economic analysis and projections required to facilitate long term strategic planning of infrastructure for coal, iron ore and LNG exports to 2025	Not applicable	Yet to be determined
Assessment of the Risks and Opportunities for the Northern Australia Beef Industry	23/03/2011	30/05/2012	\$148,000 (GST inclusive)	1xEL1 1xAPS5	26/06/2012	26/06/2012	To provide a thorough assessment of the emerging risks to the live cattle trade and opportunities and constraints to the diversification and growth of meat processing.	Not applicable	Yet to be determined
Mosaic Agriculture in Northern Australia: Assessment of Sustainability and Prospectivity	01/04/2011	31/12/2013	\$572,727 (GST exclusive) DRALGAS contribution (\$517,152 CSIRO)	1xEL1 1xAPS5	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	To provide insights into the prospectivity of mosaic irrigation in northern Australia and comprehensive and practical guide to the establishment of mosaic irrigation for the northern beef industry.	Not applicable	Yet to be determined

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Community census and well-being survey of the Norfolk Island population	28/01/2011	8/04/2011	\$180,000 (GST exclusive)	1xEL2 1xAPS6	8/04/2011	24/04/2011	Composing basic community database, enabling community profiling and contributing to a well-being report.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Social Impact and Economic Assessment of the Christmas Island Detention Centre	24/01/2011	30/12/2011	\$303,321.00 (GST exclusive)	1xEL1	Due 30/06/2012	Yet to be determined	Ascertain social and economic impacts of the operation of the Christmas Island detention centre on the community of Christmas Island in the first half of 2011	Associated with the IOT Taskforce – membership is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIAC • Customs • DAFF • AMSA • SEWPaC • Defence • AGD • Innovation • AFP • PM&C • Finance • Treasury • DBCDE 	Not applicable

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Social Impact and Economic Assessment of the Christmas Island Detention Centre – Revision and update	16/05/2012	30/06/2012	\$38,665.00 (GST exclusive)	1 x EL1	Due 30/06/2012	Yet to be determined	Revision of the social and economic impacts of the operation of the Christmas Island detention centre on the community of Christmas Island in the first half of 2011 in response to agencies' comments and community projects	Associated with the IOT Taskforce – membership is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIAC • Customs • DAFF • AMSA • SEWPaC • Defence • AGD • Innovation • AFP • PM&C • Finance • Treasury • DBCDE 	Not applicable
Insurance in the Indian Ocean Territories	31/01/2012	29/06/2012	\$70,000 (GST exclusive)	1 x EL1	Due 29/06/2012	Yet to be determined	Research on the availability of all commercial insurance products on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Not applicable	Not applicable

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Strong foundations for sustainable local infrastructure	29/11/2011	18/06/2012	\$181,818 (GST exclusive)	1xEL1 1xAPS6	18/06/2012	22/06/2012	Assess how effectively and efficiently local infrastructure needs are prioritised, and subsequently funded, by local government. Identify sources of capital for future local infrastructure needs and impediments to accessing capital. Identify the opportunities, best practice models and principles for the regional prioritisation and financing of local infrastructure	Not applicable	Yet to be determined
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Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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The Story of Cairns: Economic Analysis and Investment Opportunities	February 2011	1/08/2011	\$24,057 (GST exclusive)	1xEL1 1xAPS5	17/08/2011	Yet to be determined	Develop methods for measuring the region's economy, including analysis of public and private sector investments; Examine the ensuing economic outcomes for the region, and Develop a whole-of-government approach to further measures, if necessary.	Not applicable	Yet to be determined
Socio-economic analysis to support economic diversification in Tasmania	September 2011	August 2012	\$867,285 (GST exclusive)	1xEL2	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	To explore and identify a range of opportunities for economic diversification in Tasmania and in its communities.	Not applicable	Yet to be determined
Report on the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government	August 2011	December 2011	\$1,363,636 (GST exclusive)	1xEL1 1xAPS6	December 2011	December 2011	To identify options for the constitutional recognition of local government and to report on the level of support for such recognition among stakeholders and in the general community.	Not applicable	Yet to be determined

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 74

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 June 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. For this financial year to date, has DRALGAS paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?
2. If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached)
3. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by DRALGAS for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
4. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

Since responding to Senator Humphries' previous question on notice covering the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012, the Department has paid 96.47 per cent of its invoices within 30 day of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice for the period 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012.

The Department has not paid any interest on overdue accounts during the period 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 75

Topic: Stationery Requirements

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

- a. How much was spent by DRALGAS on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretary) stationery requirements (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) this financial year to date?
- b. What is DRALGAS's stationery costs for the financial year to date?
- c. What was DRALGAS's stationery costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?

Answer:

- a. For the period 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012 (since responding to Senator Humphries' question 85 from Additional Estimates), \$15,676.27 was spent on Government stationery requirements.
- b. For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012, \$206,134.05 was spent on Departmental stationery.
- c. From the Department's creation in September 2010 to the end of the 2010-11 financial year, \$220,705.63 was spent on Departmental stationery.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 76

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

1. Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
 - What is the cost for this financial year to date?
2. Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
 - What is the cost for this financial year to date?
3. Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
 - What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. As of 31 May 2012, there was no change to the level or number of pay TV subscription services for the Department. For the period of the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May 2012, the cost of pay TV services to the Department was \$2548.00
2. As of 31 May 2012, there was no change to the Department's newspaper subscriptions. For the period of the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May 2012, the cost of newspaper subscriptions for the Department was \$14,772.26

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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3. As of 31 May 2012, there was no change to the magazine subscriptions for the Department. For the period of the 2011-12 financial year to 31 May 2012, the cost of magazine subscriptions for the Department was \$1,482.27

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 77

Topic: Travel Costs

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 3

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
3. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
4. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
5. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Answer:

1. The table below list travel by Departmental officers accompanying the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary since responding to QoN 54 from Additional Estimates. The period of reporting is 1 February 2012 – 31 May 2012.

Date	Reason for Travel	Destination	Airfares \$	Type of airfare	Accom \$*	Meals \$*	Other Travel Expenses \$
10/2/12	Intergovernmental Agreement –Economic diversification of Tasmania	Hobart	n/a	VIP charter	(1)	(1)	(1)
20/4/12	Latrobe Valley Industry Ministerial Roundtable	Latrobe Valley	Minister's car	n/a	(1)	(1)	(1)
12/5/12	Intergovernmental Agreement – Economic Diversification of Tasmania	Hobart	n/a	VIP charter	(1)	(1)	(1)
17/5/12	Upper Spencer Gulf Visit (including industry roundtable and Minister's Advisory Council on Regional Australia)	Port Augusta, Whyalla and Adelaide	n/a	n/a	(1)	(1)	Coach Hire - \$710 (21 persons; inc 5 DRALGAS staff) Mini Bus Hire - \$198 (9 persons; inc 4 DRALGAS staff)

⁽¹⁾ Single day travel.

- 2.

All departmental travel – year to end May 2012	
Fares	\$345,038.57
Accommodation	\$161,230.28
Meals	\$26,510.67
Out-of-pocket	\$13,926.24
Other	\$25,970.74
Total	\$572,676.50

3. Yes, the Government policies, Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11), are being followed and adherence to these policies is also a requirement for our travel and our service provider, HRG Australia.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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4. Airline lounge memberships are made available to staff who travel frequently for work. The corporate rate includes joining fee and 1 year membership. The cost of membership with Qantas is \$485 and with Virgin Australia is \$448.
5. No administrative staff accompanied SES members on their travels for the reporting period.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 78

Topic: Legal Costs

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

1. What sum did DRALGAS spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did DRALGAS spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did DRALGAS spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did DRALGAS spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

1. The Department has previously provided responses for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012. For the period from 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012, the Department spent \$323,813 on legal services within the department. This is comprised of salary and overheads for five in-house lawyers and an administrative assistant/legislation liaison officer.
2. The Department has previously provided responses for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012. The Department spent \$187,900 on legal services from the Australian Government Solicitor in the period from 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012. Services included advice on contracts, procurement, grants, litigation support and general advice.

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3. The Department has previously provided responses for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012. The Department spent \$186,171 on legal services from private firms in the period from 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012. Services included advice on contracts, procurement, grants and funding agreements, statutory interpretation, litigation support and general advice.
4. The Department has previously provided responses for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012. The Department did not procure legal services from any other sources in the period from 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 79

Topic: Education Expenses

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

- a. What are DRALGAS's guidelines on study? Please provide details.
- b. For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for DRALGAS. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for DRALGAS.

Answer:

- a. The Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport study assistance policy supports employees by partially offsetting the leave requirement and/or financial costs involved in undertaking a recognised course of study.
- b. The information provided in the following table is from the period last reported (*QoN89, Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012*), 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012. The total cost of education expenses (in-house training and tertiary studies) for the Department is \$60,461.

During this period the Department also conducted in-house training in the form of professional seminars and corporate process information sessions. This training was provided by Departmental staff on Departmental premises and no expenses were incurred.

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Type of course	Total cost	Cost per participant	Number of participants	Classification	Hours study leave granted	Reason for study
Diploma of Govt (Investigations)	\$2,750	\$2,750	1	EL1	Nil	Increase investigation capability
Certificate IV in Government (Fraud Control) and (Investigation)	\$3,300	\$3,300	1	EL1	Nil	Increase investigation and fraud control capability
Postgraduate Diploma in Economics	\$5,070	\$5,070	1	EL2	105 hours	Personal and professional development
Masters Degree in Public Policy	\$1,545	\$1,545	1	SES Band 1	Nil	Personal and professional development
Masters Social Research	\$2,046	\$2,046	1	EL1	Nil	Personal and professional development
Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Laws	\$1,816	\$1,816	1	APS6	Nil	Personal and professional development
Certificate IV Project Management	\$2,750	\$2,750	1	APS6	Nil	Increase project management capability
Bachelor of Commerce	\$2,042	\$2,042	1	APS6	Nil	Personal and professional development
Public Sector Management Program	\$8,500	\$8,500	1	APS6	Nil	Personal and professional development
Masters Business Administration	\$2,808	\$2,808	1	EL1	42 hours	Personal and professional development
PEP personal efficiency program	\$19,687	\$1,640	12	APS and EL	Nil	Personal and professional development
Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning	\$8,147	\$8,147	1	APS6	65 hours	Personal and professional development

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 80

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 3

In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by DRALGAS, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
4. The names of all service providers engaged

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- a) The name and nature of the service purchased
- b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d) The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- e) The total amount spent on the service
- f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Where a service was provided at any location other than DRALGAS's own premises, please provide:

- a) The location used
- b) The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- c) The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- d) Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

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Answer:

The following information is for the period 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012. The total cost of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by DRALGAS is \$78,298.

Name of service provider	Name and nature of the service	Total spend	Description of fees (per hour/package)	Employees offered services*		Employees utilised services		One on one or group based	Total hours involved for all services	Location used	Costs incurred to use the location
				Number	Classification	Number	Study leave granted				
Australian Public Service Commission	SES Orientation	\$4,544	Per course	2	SES	2	n/a	Group	15	Providers premises	Nil
Best Practice Consulting	29 hours Executive coaching	\$8,130	Per hour	4	EL	4	n/a	One-on-one	24	DRALGAS premises	Nil
Australian Public Service Commission	New Directions seminar	\$50	Per seminar	1	SES	1	n/a	Group	2	Providers premises	Nil
Australia and New Zealand School of Government	Training seminar series	\$36	Per seminar	1	EL	1	n/a	Group	2	Providers premises	Nil
Adept Career Moves	3 hours Executive coaching sessions	\$1,200	Per hour	1	SES	1	n/a	One-on-one	3	DRALGAS premises	Nil

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Australian Public Service Commission	EL1 Transition	\$1,200	Per course	2	EL	2	n/a	Group	15	Providers premises	Nil
Australian Public Service Commission	Talent Management Program SES Band 2	\$20,516	Per 12 month program: multi-event	1	SES	1	n/a	Group and one-on-one	12 month commitment	DRALGAS and providers premises	Nil
Australian Public Service Commission	LAFIA Pacific	\$30,745	Per program	1	SES	1	n/a	Group	2 weeks	Pacific nations location	Included in program costs
Australian Public Service Commission	Career Development Assessment Centre	\$11,750	Per program	1	EL	1	n/a	Group	3.5 days	Providers premises	Nil
Australian Public Service Commission	Leader to leader seminar	\$77	Per seminar	1	SES	1	n/a	Group	2 hours	Providers premises	Nil
Australian Public Service Commission	New Directions seminar	\$50	Per seminar	1	SES	1	n/a	Group	2 hours	Providers premises	Nil

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 81

Topic: Media Training

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

In relation to media training services purchased by DRALGAS, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services;
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification;
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification); and
4. The names of all service providers engaged.

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- a) The name and nature of the service purchased;
- b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based;
- c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);
- d) The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);
- e) The total amount spent on the service; and
- f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package).

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Where a service was provided at any location other than DRALGAS's own premises, please provide:

- i. The location used
- ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
- iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

The Department has not purchased any media training services for the financial year to date.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 82

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Please list how many staff in DRALGAS are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?

For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.

Answer:

14 employees registered with Centrelink to be eligible to receive Paid Parental Leave.

Five employees were in receipt of these payments:

- 4 x Executive Level 1's
- 1 x APS 3

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 83

Topic: Training for Portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretary

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary in DRALGAS? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.
2. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary in DRALGAS? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.
3. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary in DRALGAS? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification.

Answer:

One member of Minister Crean's staff attended the Annual Management Excellence Conference, costing \$3,130.38 (inclusive of GST).

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 84

Topic: Corporate Cars

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 8

Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

1. How many cars are owned by DRALGAS & each agency?
2. Where are the cars located?
3. What are the cars used for?
4. What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?
5. How far did each car travel this financial year to date?

Answer:

DRALGAS

1. DRALGAS administers a number of vehicles including ambulances, fire vehicles and utility vehicles in the Territories under Portfolio Budget Statement Outcome 2.
2. See 1.
3. See 1.
4. Not applicable.
5. Not applicable.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Portfolio Agencies

The following agencies provided a nil response to this request

- National Museum of Australia (NMA)
- National Gallery of Australia (NGA)
- National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSAA)
- Museum of Australian Democracy/Old Parliament House (MOAD/OPH)
- National Archives of Australia (NAA)
- Australia Business Arts Foundation (ABaF)
- Art Bank
- Screen Australia
- Australia Council

National Capital Authority

1. The National Capital Authority does not own any cars.
2. Not applicable
3. Not applicable
4. Not applicable
5. Not applicable

Australian Sports Commission

1. The Australian Sports Commission owned 60 cars as at 31 May 2012.
2. These cars are located at the following locations:
 - Alice Springs
 - Brisbane
 - Broken Hill
 - Broome
 - Cairns

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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- Canberra
 - Geraldton
 - Gold Coast
 - Italy (European Training Centre)
 - Kalgoorlie
 - Katherine
 - Penrith
 - Perth
 - Port Hedland
 - Sydney
 - Townsville
3. There have been no changes to this response since Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011, when the agencies were part of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio.
4. The cost identified for each car for the period 1 July 2012 until 31 May 2012 is provided in the table below. The cost of each car is based on the running costs (fuel and servicing), depreciation of the vehicle and insurance costs.

Vehicle No.	Cost (\$)
1	559.37
2	6,249.69
3	4,601.24
4	3,228.25
5	7,201.02
6	10,858.86
7	10,954.39
8	10,836.89
9*	3,595.50
10*	5,551.28
11*	3,606.66
12*	4,557.06
13*	4,060.48
14*	6,317.17
15	10,659.58
16	8,709.37
17	2,577.42
18	3,423.63

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Vehicle No.	Cost (\$)
19*	1,699.27
20*	3,092.13
21*	4,857.81
22	3,936.92
23	5,293.79
24	4,636.90
25	6,047.68
26*	4,545.91
27*	4,173.69
28*	2,749.86
29	5,017.12
30	6,778.27
31	5,584.05
32	3,730.67
33	5,217.87
34	6,118.88
35	5,178.59
36	3,429.72
37	10,293.58
38	5,266.53
39	5,513.95
40	15,223.90
41	15,017.13
42	4,419.80
43	8,124.41
44	7,534.44
45	9,457.14
46	8,992.76
47	7,048.06
48	7,609.14
49	11,791.97
50	11,719.55
51	9,184.26
52	7,090.12
53	6,599.02
54	8,523.57
55	4,743.31
56	9,856.85
57	6,600.56
58	4,051.34
59	3,162.90
60	3,163.12
61	3,162.90
62	2,598.37
63	4,094.87
64	756.71

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Vehicle No.	Cost (\$)
65	1,632.28
66	1,822.16
67	1,015.22
68	940.75
69	999.27
70	1,074.13
71	1,045.14
72	

* Denotes 12 vehicles that were disposed during the period.

5. The Australian Sports Commission collects the number of kilometres travelled for the FBT year for vehicles that are subject to FBT and for the financial year for other vehicles. The table below includes the distance travelled for each vehicle subject to FBT from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, based on the 2011-12 FBT year. Those vehicles for which a distance is not recorded have their mileage collected at the end of each financial year.

Vehicle No.	Distance Travelled (kms)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9*	
10*	
11*	
12*	21,094
13*	26,688
14*	15,276
15	
16	
17	
18	13,712
19*	
20*	
21*	15,302
22	12,182
23	40,320
24	

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Vehicle No.	Distance Travelled (kms)
25	
26*	20,512
27*	20,817
28*	12,829
29	
30	
31	
32	
33	
34	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	31,678
40	
41	14,173
42	
43	13,651
44	
45	
46	14,456
47	11,447
48	
49	
50	12,436
51	11,763
52	6,639
53	12,278
54	
55	
56	
57	4,904
58	4,412
59	
60	
61	
62	
63	2,472
64	
65	44
66	389
67	
68	
69	

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Vehicle No.	Distance Travelled (kms)
70	
71	
72	

* Denotes 12 vehicles that were disposed during the period.

National Library of Australia (NLA)

1. 1 van
2. Hume, ACT
3. To transport collection material from two offsite repositories located at Hume for use in the Library building at Parkes.
4. Additional running costs of the vehicle to 31 May 2012 – \$1,206 exclusive of GST
5. Additional kilometres travelled to 31 May 2012 – 4,777 kilometres.

Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS)

1. 4
2. Sydney, NSW
3. Executive remuneration packages
4. See below
5. See below

AFTRS	Cars annual cost (incl. FBT)	Kilometres#
Vehicle 1	\$12,396.58	16,704
Vehicle 2	\$13,299.34	9,953
Vehicle 3	\$14,229.96	10,303
Vehicle 4	\$14,763.92	9,299

Data not available to calculate kilometres travelled in 2011-12 financial year. Kilometres detailed above were extracted from AFTRS' last FBT return, i.e. from April 2011 to March 2012.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Bundanon Trust (BT)

1. 3
2. Cambewarra, NSW
3. Fleet Vehicles – travelling between our three properties, external meetings, artists transfers and collecting supplies from urban centres.
4. See below
5. See below

<i>BT</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Kilometres</i>
Car 1	\$7153	32,600
Car 2	\$6629	18,988
Car 3	\$6055	15,893

Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM)

1. 4
2. Darling Harbour, NSW
3. All are pool cars for general museum purposes during the day. At other times three senior managers are able to use them for private purposes.
4. See below
5. See below

<i>ANMM</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Kilometres</i>
Car 1	\$8,824	16,124
Car 2	\$9,130	14,817
Car 3	\$7,090	8,353
Car 4	\$8,776	19,632

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 85

Topic: Taxi Costs

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

How much did DRALGAS spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each departmental/agency. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

Since responding to Senate Humphries's previous question on notice covering the period 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012, the Department has spent \$57,007.34 on taxis in the period 1 February 2012 to 31 May 2012.

A breakdown by business group is as follows:

Business Group	Expense \$
Corporate Services	11,987.96
Executive	4,010.07
North West & Local Government	4,591.44
National Portrait Gallery	3,786.64
Office for the Arts	11,312.85
Office for Sport	3,105.24
Policy and Coordination	2,800.76
Southern Regions & RDA Network	11,048.10
Territories & Disaster Reconstruction	4,364.28
Total	57,007.34

Taxi costs are incurred by APS employees in the course of carrying out their official duties.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 86

Topic: Credit Cards

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

1. Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.
2. Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):
 - a. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
 - b. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
 - c. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
 - d. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
 - e. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

1. *Administered Corporate Credit Cards*

Employment Classification	No. of CC Holders
APS2	1
APS3	1
APS6	9
ASO5	1
ASO6	2
EL1	12
EL2	11
SEB1	2
SEB2	1
Total	40

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Departmental Corporate Credit Cards

Employment Classification	No. Of CC Holders
APS3	1
APS4	11
APS5	25
APS6	39
EL1	70
EL2	49
SEB1	15
SEB2	8
SEB3	4
Secretary	1
Total	223

2a. There has been no change in Department procedures since the response provided at Additional Estimates 2011-12 question number 96.

2b. There has been no change in Department procedures since the response provided at Additional Estimates 2011-12 question number 96.

2c. There has been no change in Department procedures since the response provided at Additional Estimates 2011-12 question number 96.

2 d- e.

- There have been three instances when the corporate credit card has been inadvertently used since the response to Additional Estimates 2011-12 question number 96.
- All funds related to these transactions have been repaid to the Department.
- No findings of fraud were found as a result of these three transactions.

Classification	Misuse	Action Taken
EL1	Inadvertent personal use	Repaid to the Department
EL1	Inadvertent personal use	Repaid to the Department
EL2	Inadvertent personal use	Repaid to the Department

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 87

Topic: Printing of Documents

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 5

Does DRALGAS print any hard copies of reports/statements/papers they produce? If yes, please list how many copies, where they are delivered and the cost

Answer:

Yes.

Product	Printed	Delivered to	Cost
Annual Report	1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Parliament• RDAs (Regional Australia Development Committees)• Local Government bodies• Federal Government departments Department's• SES and Regional Offices of DRALGAS• Key stakeholders• External members of the Department's Risk and Audit Committee	Total cost design, print and distribution - \$49,108

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements	600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Parliament • SES and Regional Offices of DRALGAS • Portfolio Agencies • Key stakeholders • External members of the Department's Risk and Audit Committee 	\$5,357
Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements	450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Parliament • SES and Regional Offices of DRALGAS • Portfolio Agencies • Department of Finance and Deregulation • External members of the Department's Risk and Audit Committee 	\$1,463
Portfolio Budget Statements	700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Parliament • SES and Regional Offices of DRALGAS • Portfolio Agencies • Department of Finance and Deregulation • External members of the Department's Risk and Audit Committee 	\$11,110
Constitutional	1300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public at 	\$11,246.40

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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<p>Recognition for Local Government - Discussion paper</p>		<p>community meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested and targeted stakeholders including academics, federal parliamentarians, local government representatives, state premiers and unions. 	
<p>Constitutional Recognition for Local Government Final Report</p>	<p>500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel members (Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government). • Federal Parliamentarians. • State and Territory Parliamentarians. • State and Territory Local Government Ministers. • State and Territory Local Government Associations. • Members of the public who made hard copy submissions and did not provide an email address. • Australian Local Government Association. • Australian Council of Local Government – Steering Committee members. • Commonwealth Departments such as the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Prime Minister and Cabinet, 	<p>\$16,932</p>

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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		Australian Electoral Commission and Attorney-General's Department.	
Review of Australia Council report	10	Co-chairs of the review Australia Council board	\$698.92
2008–09 Local Government National Report	1,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government Ministers responsible for Local government • State Treasurers • State Departments of Local Government • Local Government Grants Commission • All CEOs of local governing bodies in Australia • All Mayors in Australia • Key local government stakeholders • ALGA (Australian Local government Association) • LGMA (Local Government Managers Australia) • RDAs (Regional Development Australia Committees) 	\$17,029.10

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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2012-13 Ministerial Budget Statement	3600	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parliamentary Ministers• State and local governments• RDAs (Regional Development Australia Committees)• ALGA (Australian Local government Association)• State Local Government Associations• State Regional Ministers• Key Commonwealth departments• Departmental Regional offices• Ministerial advisory committees – Ministerial Advisory Committee for Regional Australia• Regional Australia Institute• Key stakeholders	\$35,486
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Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 88

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

- a. Did DRALGAS provide mobile phones to the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary and their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs.
- b. Did DRALGAS provide electronic equipment to the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary and their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date? What were the running costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- c. Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive (not an inclusive list)) provided to DRALGAS staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.
- d. Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012): Does DRALGAS provide the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary and their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.

Answer:

- a. The Department provides mobile phones to Minister Crean and his office. Phones provided are Blackberry or standard mobile phones. The Minister has also been provided with an iPad. The initial establishment cost for these devices can vary, but typically falls in the range between \$595.00 and \$1,500.00.
- b. Yes, the Department provides electronic equipment to Minister Crean and his office.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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The ongoing cost associated with provisioning electronic equipment including user support service for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary and their offices, are covered through the shared services arrangement with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and are not separately identified.

- c. The Department provides departmental staff with a workstation, including desk, chair, personal computer, mobile devices (where appropriate), telephone and access to a printer.
- The majority of staff are provided with standard equipment (i.e. \$3,871 per staff member). This cost includes leasing costs associated with multi-function devices and printers.
 - Based on operational requirements, some officers within the Department require mobile devices to access phone and desktop services (laptop and mobile telephony; or desktop and Blackberry). Depending on the configuration of the mobile solution package, the base cost per staff member ranges from \$3,871 to \$5,520.
 - Staff classifications range from APS1 through to the SES Band 3.
- d. Since Additional Estimates, the Minister's office has been provided with a polycom upgradable sound station (for teleconference calls) and a new printer tray. The costs incurred in this reporting period (1 February 2012 – 31 May 2012) are \$2,075.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 89

Topic: Electricity Purchasing

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. Provide an update of DRALGAS electricity purchasing agreement. Provide details of when this was entered into and the length of the agreement.
2. What were DRALGAS electricity costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
3. What are DRALGAS electricity costs for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. The Department makes use of a Whole of Australian Government agreement in place with ERM Power Pty Ltd.
 - Details of this agreement can be located on www.finance.gov.au.
 - The Department entered into this electricity purchasing agreement on 20 May 2011.
 - The period of the agreement is 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015.
2. The Department was established on 14 September 2010 and as such there were no electricity costs associated with the Department for the 2009-10 financial year. Electricity costs for the Department for the period of the 2010-11 financial year were approximately \$166,979.
3. Electricity costs for the Department for the current financial year to 24 May 2012 have been approximately \$206,482. This amount includes electricity costs for additional functions added to the portfolio at the end of 2011, including the Office for the Arts and Office for Sport.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 90

Topic: Electricity Costs - Department's Usage

Asked By: Senator MCKENZIE

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

- a. Has the department modelled the impact of the carbon tax on their running costs?
- b. If so, what was the outcome? If not, why not?
- c. How much electricity does the department use? How much has the department spent on electricity in the financial year to date?

Answer:

- a. The Department has not modelled the impact of the carbon tax on its running costs.
- b. The Department's electricity costs are a relatively small percentage of its overall costs (less than half of one percent).
- c. For the current financial year to 24 May 2012, the Department used approximately 797,234 kWh of electricity.

For the current financial year to 24 May 2012, the Department has spent approximately \$206,482 on electricity.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 24 May 2012

Question: 91

Topic: Shredders

Asked By: Senator HEFFERNAN

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Has DRALGAS purchased any shredders in the last 12 months? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

Answer:

The Department has not purchased any shredders in the last 12 months.