

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 81**

**Topic: Tenders for Civics Campaigns**

**Asked By: Senator JOYCE**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 8**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Ms Beauchamp:** We are just about to go to tender for that piece of work. So we have actually started work to get that civics campaign out there.

**Senator JOYCE:** How long before those tenders have to come back?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I would have to take that on notice or wait we get to the local government area, where my officers have the details of that.

**Answer:**

All tenders for the national civics campaign were received by 18 June 2013.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 82**

**Topic: Dates and Timeline for Referendum Process**

**Asked By: Senator JOYCE**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 8**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Ms Beauchamp:** As I said earlier, I am confident that we can deliver all of the requirements to undertake the referendum on 14 September, including effectively managing the civics campaign. I would have to take on notice the exact dates and timeline for the process.

**Answer:**

The main elements of the civics campaign include market research, public relations, advertising and specialist communications for Indigenous and multicultural audiences. All service providers related to each of these campaign elements have been selected, and contracts supporting the delivery of services have been executed.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 83**

**Topic: Grants to the Australian Local Government Association**

**Asked By: Senator RYAN**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 90**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator RYAN:** Has the department given the Australian Local Government Association any grants in the last 12 months or in this current financial year? I do not think I have seen in the budget that there is any for the coming financial year.

**Ms Foster:** Not to my knowledge.

**Senator RYAN:** If that is different, could you take it on notice and correct it?

**Ms Foster:** Absolutely.

**Answer:**

In the 2011-12 financial year, the Department gave the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) \$74,800 (GST inclusive) for sponsorship of the 2012 National Awards for Local Government.

In the 2012-13 financial year, no funds have been provided to ALGA.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 84**

**Topic: Specific Roles and Functions of Referendum Unit**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 92**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator SMITH:** Can you make available to the committee on notice the details of the specific roles and functions of the referendum unit. Also, what are the roles and functions of those 17 people?

**Answer:**

The Referendum Taskforce provides support to the government to deliver the referendum. At 5 July 2013 the specific roles and functions within the Referendum Taskforce are as follows:

- Referendum Taskforce Management function. Two staff, responsible for overall leadership of the Taskforce, executive and administrative support;
- Policy and Coordination function. Ten staff, responsible for policy, budgeting, briefing and program management, including administering funding for 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns;
- Campaigns function. Five staff, responsible for stakeholder engagement, website management and the national civics campaign.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 85**

**Topic: Change to roles of Referendum Taskforce members**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 93**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator SMITH:** Excellent, then I would like to see the expression of interest that was circulated. I accept that people's roles might change, but I would like to know what those roles might look like at the beginning and what they might look like where you expect those roles to change at the middle and at the end.

**Ms Foster:** Certainly.

**Answer:**

Refer to answers to questions 84 and 97.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 86**

**Topic: Fairness in conduct of Referendum**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 94**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator SMITH:** Minister, would you be prepared to take on notice a response to my question about how the government will guarantee fairness in the conduct of this particular referendum?

**Senator Lundy:** I am happy to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer to question 109.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 87**

**Topic: Merits of the Referendum**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 95**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator SMITH:** In the *West Australian* on 8 May, Mr Albanese talked about the merits of the referendum. You can take this on notice. Was that opinion piece prepared in his office or in the department?

**Answer:**

The opinion piece which appeared in the *West Australian* on 8 May 2013 was prepared in Minister Albanese's office.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 88**

**Topic: New projects occurring as a result of constitutional recognition of local government**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 95**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator SMITH:** Can the department advise me which new projects will occur as a result of recognising local government in the Constitution? Can the department provide me with any advice about any concrete examples of projects across Australia that will occur as a result of recognising local government in the Constitution?

**Ms Foster:** I will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Consideration of future projects is a matter for Government.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 89**

**Topic: Projects not proceeding due to no recognition of local government**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 95**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator SMITH:** Can you provide details of three projects that are currently unable to proceed because local government is not recognised in the Constitution?

**Answer:**

Not applicable.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 90**

**Topic: Meeting of Regional Development and Local Government Ministers**

**Asked By: Senator JOYCE**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 99**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 2**

**Ms Foster:** Yes, there was a meeting of regional development and local government ministers with Minister Albanese in Hobart about a month ago.

**Senator JOYCE:** That was with all local government ministers?

**Ms Foster:** It was with those who were able to attend, not all were there.

**Senator JOYCE:** Who was able to attend? More to the point, who was not able to attend? Whichever one is quicker, can you tell me that?

**Ms Foster:** I do not have that detail to hand, I am sorry. I will have to get that for you on notice.

**Answer:**

Federal, state and territory ministers responsible for regional development and for local government, as well as representatives for the Australian Local Government Association, met in Hobart on 18 April 2013 for a joint meeting of the Council of Australian Governments Regional Australia Standing Council and the Local Government Ministers' Forum.

The following local government ministers attended:

- The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Minister for Regional Development and Local Government.
- Ms Gail Gago, South Australia Minister for Local Government.
- Mr David O'Byrne, Tasmania Minister for Local Government.
- Mr Don Page, New South Wales Minister for Local Government.

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Apologies included the Local Government Ministers for Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, who were represented by their respective State-level senior officials.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 91**

**Topic: Minister campaigning for Referendum Proposal**

**Asked By: Senator JOYCE**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 101**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator JOYCE:** Well, that is even better. So what is he doing—is he out campaigning for it? Where was the last place he went campaigning for it?

**Ms Foster:** I will have to take that on notice. I do not have that detail.

**Answer:**

During the period from the announcement of the referendum on 9 May 2013 to when he ceased being Minister for Local Government on 1 July 2013, Minister Albanese publicised the referendum by holding press conferences, meeting with key stakeholders including local government representatives, delivering speeches, and issuing media releases and opinion pieces. His most recent media release on the referendum was issued on 24 June 2013.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 92**

**Topic: Status of an entity opposed to referendum proposal**

**Asked By: Senator EGGLESTON**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 106**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator EGGLESTON:** You might like to take on notice: what kind of status would an entity, which was opposed to the referendum proposal, have to have? What kind of legal status?

**Ms Foster:** I will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Generally, for an entity to receive public money it needs to be an individual, a company or other incorporated organisation, such as an incorporated not-for-profit organisation.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 93**

**Topic: Local Government and Planning Minister's Council**

**Asked By: Senator JOYCE**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

- a. Given that the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council was wound up in 2010, what other regular meetings occur between Local Government Federal and State Ministers?
- b. When was the last time that Minister Crean or Albanese had meetings with his respective State government Ministers at a State level?

**Answer:**

The Local Government Ministers' Forum (the Forum) was established in November 2011 to facilitate meetings between local, state and territory, and federal government ministers on an as required basis.

The Forum is supported by an inter-jurisdictional working group comprised of representatives from the Australian Government, the states, territories and the Australian Local Government Association. The Inter-jurisdictional Working Group has met on 6 occasions since 2011.

The Forum met in Hobart on 18 April 2013 for a joint meeting with the Council of Australian Governments Regional Australia Standing Council. The Forum will continue to meet as required, and will meet bilaterally with the Regional Australia Standing Council as appropriate.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 94**

**Topic: ACLG Website**

**Asked By: Senator JOYCE**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

I note that the Australian Council of Local Government website just says it is being updated at the moment.

- a. How long as the website been out of action?
- b. When it is likely to be restored?
- c. What are the updates for and how much are they costing?

**Answer:**

The last update on the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) is dated 10 July 2013.

The website is active and is updated periodically following specific significant events, such as the ACLG dinner and the National Awards for Excellence in Local Government held on 16 June 2013, including event photos.

Maintenance of the website is provided in-house.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 95**

**Topic: Financial Assistance Grants Review**

**Asked By: Senator JOYCE**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

- a. How is the FAGS review progressing and where is the process up to?
- b. Is it still on schedule to be completed by December 2013?

**Answer:**

- a. The Commonwealth Grants Commission (the Commission) was engaged by the Treasurer on 9 November 2012 to conduct the Review.

The Commission held a public hearing in Canberra on 10 April 2013 and a regional public hearing was held in Adelaide on 9 May 2013.

Details of submissions are available on the Commissions website at [www.cgc.gov.au](http://www.cgc.gov.au).

- b. Yes, the Commission is due to report to Government by December 2013.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 96**

**Topic: Breakdown of funding for Referendum Taskforce**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

Please provide a breakdown of the \$1.6 million to be used to fund the Referendum Taskforce Unit. Please provide details of funds allocated or expected to be allocated for campaign advertising expenses, travel and accommodation expenses, salaries and research.

**Answer:**

The \$1.578 million to fund the Referendum Taskforce Unit is allocated as follows:

<b>Expenditure item</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
Staff costs (inc travel and accomm)	\$451,000	\$834,000
Legal advice	\$41,000	\$40,000
Research and support activities	\$106,000	\$106,000
Total	\$598,000	\$980,000

The National Civics Education campaign is funded by a separate administered allocation of \$10 million - \$0.5 million in 2012/13 and \$9.5 million in 2013-14.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 97**

**Topic: Expression of Interest for Referendum Taskforce**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

Please provide a copy of the Expression of Interest advertisement and other supporting documents used to recruit for staffing positions in the Referendum Taskforce Unit.

**Answer:**

The Expression of Interest advertisement follows:

*Expressions of Interest*

We are looking for people, both internally and externally, to join the Taskforce across a range of positions and levels. The roles and skills we are seeking cover project management, communications, policy, legal, contract management and procurement. The Taskforce represents an exciting opportunity to work on a referendum, which is relatively rare and a core element of Australia's democratic framework. If you are interested in the opportunity please submit a brief expression of interest to ... by 4:00pm Friday—a CV including your areas of expertise, and your current role and duties will suffice. We apologise for the short time in which to consider the opportunity, which is driven by the urgency of the Taskforce's work. Please note that we will need to take into account your current roles and duties in considering expressions of interest to ensure the Department can continue to meet its other priorities.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 98**

**Topic: Staffing positions available on the Referendum Taskforce**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

Please provide the details of the staffing position/roles that are available to be applied for within the Referendum Taskforce Unit.

**Answer:**

All positions within the Referendum Taskforce have been filled.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 99**

**Topic: Senior Official of Referendum Taskforce**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

Who will be the most senior departmental official in the Referendum Taskforce Unit?

**Answer:**

First Assistant Secretary, Mr Steve Jennaway is the head of the Referendum Taskforce.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 100**

**Topic: Staffing details of Referendum Taskforce**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

During Estimates hearings of 30 May 2013, officials said “about 17” staff roles would comprise the Referendum Taskforce Unit.

Please advise:

- a. How many have been filled as at 7 June;
- b. Which departments these roles have been taken from; and
- c. The numbers taken from each department and the positions occupied by these individuals prior to moving to the Referendum Taskforce Unit

**Answer:**

- a. Sixteen staff roles had been filled as at 7 June 2013.
- b. Fifteen of these roles were taken from the Departments of Finance and Deregulation; Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education; Infrastructure and Transport; and Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport. A further role was filled from outside the Australian Public Service.
- c. The positions occupied by these individuals prior to moving to the Referendum Taskforce Unit are as follows:

<b>Department</b>	<b>Position</b>
Department of Finance and Deregulation	Director Communications Advice
Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education	Senior Communications Adviser
Department of Infrastructure and Transport	Executive Director, Aviation and Airports
Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport	Twelve staff were drawn from corporate, legal, policy and program areas.
(Individual recruited from outside the Australian Public Service.)	Not applicable

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 101**

**Topic: Individuals employed in Referendum Taskforce from outside of Government**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

- a. Have any individuals been recruited or engaged to work in the Referendum Taskforce Unit from outside of Government?
- b. If so, what roles are they performing?
- c. If not, do you expect any to be recruited or engaged during the period up to 14 September 2013?

**Answer:**

- a. Yes.
- b. One officer has been recruited on a non-ongoing basis from outside Government to perform the role of Executive Assistant to the First Assistant Secretary. A second officer recruited from outside Government was employed for a two week period in May 2013 to do preparatory work for the national civics campaign. A third officer recruited from outside Government was employed for a two week period in June 2013 to carry out communications and stakeholder engagement tasks.
- c. Not applicable.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 102**

**Topic: Activities to be undertaken by Referendum Taskforce**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

In the Estimates hearings of 30 May 2013, officials described various streams of activities to be undertaken by the Referendum Taskforce Unit. The evidence identified (1) the civic education campaign, (2) engagement with stakeholders, and (3) project management and planning.

Please provide details of the activities to be undertaken by each of these streams.

**Answer:**

1. The civics education campaign stream involves developing, executing and managing contracts to support the delivery of a national communications campaign. Activities include identifying potential service providers through request for offer processes, selecting service providers following appropriate evaluation procedures, and engaging the selected service providers for market research, public relations, advertising and specialist communications for Indigenous and multicultural audiences.
2. The work of the stakeholder engagement stream involves engagement with other relevant government agencies including the Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Electoral Commission; the development and ongoing management of the Australian Government's referendum information website; management of a public information hotline; management of correspondence to the Government from the public on the referendum; and the execution and monitoring of funding agreements for the partisan campaigns.
3. The project management and planning stream involves policy analysis, planning, budgeting, briefing, executive support, monitoring and reporting, and support for the legislative process.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 103**

**Topic: Use of Referendum Taskforce for media and marketing purposes**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 2**

Will the Referendum Taskforce Unit be used to:

1. provide media monitoring;
2. prepare speeches;
3. prepare opinion pieces;
4. provide media statements;
5. undertake market research;
6. prepare advertising collateral; and
7. identify speakers for public meetings, media appearances and community events?

**Answer:**

1. Yes, as part of the Department's standard media monitoring contract.
2. No. However, the Taskforce may provide information to the Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government and Territories which could be used in the preparation of speeches.
3. No. However, the Taskforce may provide information to the Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government and Territories which could be used in the preparation of opinion pieces.
4. No. However, the Taskforce may provide information to the Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government and Territories which could be used in the preparation of media statements.
5. No. However, the Taskforce has engaged specialist suppliers to undertake this activity.
6. No. However, the Taskforce has engaged specialist suppliers to undertake this activity.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport**

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7. No. However, the Taskforce has engaged specialist suppliers to undertake this activity.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport**

**Budget Estimates 30 May 2013**

**Question: 104**

**Topic: Case against referendum proposal**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

Will the activities detailed in previous question be made available to persons presenting the case against the referendum proposal?

**Answer:**

No, they will not be made available to persons presenting the case for or against the referendum proposal.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 105**

**Topic: Media Monitoring for Referendum Taskforce**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

Will media monitoring undertaken by the Referendum Taskforce Unit be made available to:

- a. all Parliamentarians who voted for the Constitution Alteration (Local Government) Bill 2013; and
- b. all Parliamentarians who voted against the Constitution Alteration (Local Government) Bill 2013?

**Answer:**

- a. No.
- b. No.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 106**

**Topic: Meetings of Deputy Secretary's Group**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

Please provide the dates, copies of the agenda and minutes of the meeting of the “deputy secretaries group” or other similar group identified in the Estimates hearings of 30 May 2013.

**Answer:**

The Deputy Secretaries’ Steering Committee met on 1, 6, 14, 23 and 31 May 2013, and on 11 and 25 June 2013. Formal minutes were not recorded, however action items were allocated to the appropriate officer as they arose and actioned accordingly.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 107**

**Topic: Independent oversight of Referendum Taskforce**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

Will there be any independent oversight of the Referendum Taskforce Unit to ensure its activities are used to promote fairness in the execution of the arguments for and against the referendum proposal?

If not, why not?

**Answer:**

The Referendum Taskforce does not execute arguments for or against the referendum proposal.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 108**

**Topic: Even Distribution of Funding of the Referendum**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

What mechanisms are in place to ensure the funding of the referendum is distributed evenly between the cases for and against the referendum proposal?

**Answer:**

The Australian Electoral Commission will provide pamphlets to all households, ahead of the referendum, which provide information on the 'yes' and 'no' cases.

The distribution of funding between the cases for and against the referendum proposal was a decision of Government, which was based on the outcome of the House of Representatives vote on the *Constitution Alteration (Local Government) Bill 2013*.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 109**

**Topic: Criteria for Referendum**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

What criteria will the Government use to determine whether the referendum was conducted fairly and in an open and transparent manner?

**Answer:**

The referendum will be conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission, in accordance with the statutory requirements of the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*.

**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 30 May 2013**

**Question: 110**

**Topic: National civics campaign for Referendum**

**Asked By: Senator SMITH**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

Please provide a list of the names or the individuals and organisations that have met with:

- a. the Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport; and/or
- b. officials of the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport,

to discuss utilising some or all of the \$10 million allocated to the proposed national civics education campaign in connection with the referendum.

**Answer:**

- a. Nil.
- b. The following meetings have included discussions about utilising the \$10 million allocated to the proposed national civics education campaign in connection with the referendum:
  1. meetings between officials of the Departments of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport, the Attorney-General, Finance and Deregulation, Prime Minister and Cabinet, The Treasury, and the Australian Electoral Commission;
  2. meetings between officials of the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport and individuals from commercial organisations that bid for, or had considered bidding for, the various contracts involved in the proposed campaign; and
  3. meetings between officials of the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport and representatives of the Constitution Education Fund Australia.