

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 036

**Topic:** Consultancies

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Fifield** asked:

Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.

**Answer:**

A listing of the department's consultancy services valued at \$10,000 or more is publically available on the AusTender website. The Austender listing includes a description of the work to be undertaken and the rationale for engaging a consultant.

The department obtains consultancy services in the following circumstances:

- where there is a need for independent research or assessment;
- where there is a need for specialised or professional skills; or
- where the required skills are currently unavailable within agency.

These reasons are consistent with the Financial Management Guidance issued by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.