

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: 051

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

- a) How many reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- b) How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- c) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

a) The definition of a 'report' used in providing an answer to this Question on Notice is any report authorised by government, finalised, handed to government and subsequently made public. Reports produced as a component of work for Cabinet committees, inter-departmental committees, Coalition of Australian Government (COAG) working groups and internal committees are excluded.

Since Budget Estimates 2010, two reports have been commissioned by the Government in the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio.

Title: Scoping study into the Find and Connect Services

Commissioned: June 2010

Finalised: October 2010

Publicly Released: November 2010

Cost: \$0.08m

Additional Information:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/apology_forgotten_au/Documents/find_connect/default.htm

Title: The Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness Annual Report 2009–10

Commissioned: August 2010

Finalised: October 2010

Publicly Released: October 2010

Cost: \$1,815

Additional Information:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/pubs/homelessness/Pages/PM_homelessnessARforeword.aspx

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b) The cost of each report is indicated in 051(a) above. As stated in the answer to Question on Notice 243-246 from Senator Fierravanti-Wells (2009–10 Additional Estimates February 2010), the Department does not separately identify the costs and number of staff supporting reports in the finance system. A significant expenditure of resources would be required to research and calculate the total number and level of departmental staff involved in each of these reports. Consequently, the Department is unable to provide a response to this question.

c) The two reports commissioned since Budget Estimates 2010 have been finalised and released publicly. The Government will respond in accordance to its responsibilities in relation to all commissioned reports.