

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio

Topic: Consultancies

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: 173

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

a) How many consultancies have been undertaken from 7 September 2013 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 (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.

b) 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:

a) One non legal consultancy has been entered from 7 September 2013 to 30 November 2013. During the same period, the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) procured legal services on seven occasions from two legal service providers, Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) and Ashurst, some of which may be considered to be consultancies. All legal services were procured under the Legal Services Multi Use List. The duration of the services ranges from two days to over a period of seven months. The projected cost of the services covered by the contracts entered into is \$204,000. Elements of these contracts concern matters that are not considered 'consultancies' but for the purposes of this question the contracts are reported in full with no attempt to separate components of the services which fall within the definition of consultancy.

Name	Subject matter	Duration (days)	Contract Price (\$ including GST)	Method of procurement
KPMG	Senior reviewer for Department of Veteran's Affairs Capability review	53	41,800	Limited tender
Ashurst and AGS	Legal services	Various	204,000	Prequalified tender
	Total Value		245,800	

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b) The APSC's 2013-2014 Annual Procurement Plan (APP) contains the establishment of four panels from which orders for consultancies may be sourced in the future.

Item	Status
Learning and Development Panel	Establishment of panel is nearing completion
Business Services Panel - Replaces existing panel arrangement	Establishment of panel is nearing completion
Research Services Panel	Establishment of panel is nearing completion
E-Learning Support Services and Solutions	Establishment of panel is nearing completion

Consultancies may be sourced through open, prequalified or limited tender procurement methods in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

A planned consultancy is not included on the Annual Procurement Plan (APP) if it is expected to be sourced from an existing panel or multi-use list, or where prequalified or limited tender procurement methods are permitted.