

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(139) Program : Internal Product

Senator Eggleston asked:

- (1) How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since November 2007? How can the department justify this expenditure?
- (2) 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:

(1) All agencies that are subject to the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 are required to report procurement contracts awarded where the contract value is \$10,000 or more. These are reported on AusTender, the government's tender and procurement reporting system. From 3 September 2007 Departments and agencies have been required to include on AusTender details of those contracts which are consultancies and the reason for the consultancy. The information sought by the honourable Senator in relation to consultancies valued at \$10,000 or more is therefore available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au), noting that Departments have six weeks to report procurement contracts on AusTender.

(2) Details of consultancies over the value of \$10,000 can be obtained from the AusTender website. The rationale for the project, its intended use and the reason why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves is also available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au)