

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee**

23 March 2023

## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

### **Department of Social Services**

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000021

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written.    **Hansard Pagels:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

#### **Question:**

1. Will the Department of Social Service spend less on consultancy services in the 2022-23 FY than in the 2021-22 FY?

#### **Answer:**

Consultancy engagement and spend across the Department of Social Services (the Department) can fluctuate from year to year and is based on needs as they arise. For this reason, the Department is unable to accurately predict spend on consultancy services at the conclusion of the current financial year and thus advise whether the Department will spend less on consultancy services in the 2022-23 financial year than in the 2021-22 financial year. Final spend on consultancy services for the current financial year will be made publically available in the 2022-23 Annual Report, later in the year.

The Department has seen a downward trend in consultancy services spend over recent years.

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23 March 2023

## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000022

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written. **Hansard Pagels:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

### **Question:**

2. What is the Department of Social Services predicted spend on consultancy services in the 2022-23 FY?

### **Answer:**

Consultancy engagement and spend across the Department of Social Services (the Department) can fluctuate from year to year and is based on needs as they arise. For this reason, the Department is unable to accurately predict spend on consultancy services at the conclusion of the current financial year. Final spend on consultancy services for the current financial year will be made publically available in the 2022-23 Annual Report, later in the year.

The Department publishes consultancy services on AusTender within 42 days of contract commencement, in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee**

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## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

### **Department of Social Services**

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000023

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written. **Hansard Pagels:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

#### **Question:**

3. What did the Department of Social Services spend on consultancy services in the 2021-22 FY?

#### **Answer:**

Please refer to the Department of Social Services (the Department) 2021-22 Annual Report.

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee**

23 March 2023

## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

### **Department of Social Services**

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000024

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written.    **Hansard Pagels:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

#### **Question:**

4. How much has the Department of Social Services spent on consultancy services to date in the 2022-23 FY?

#### **Answer:**

Expenditure on consultancy services is reported in each Department of Social Services Annual Report. Expenditure across the 2022-23 Financial Year will be reported in the 2022- 23 Annual Report.

Details on each consultancy engagement is published on AusTender.

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## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000025

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written.    **Hansard Pagels:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

### **Question:**

5. How many reports did the Department of Social Services commission from consultants in the last three financial years: 2019-2020-2021-2022?
  - a. Of any reports commissioned in the last three financial years, how many have been publicly released (in whole or in part)?

### **Answer:**

Details on each consultancy engagement is published on AusTender.

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee**

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## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000026

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written.    **Hansard Pagels:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

### **Question:**

6. Has the Department of Social Services determined in the last ten years that a consulting firm has not fulfilled their contract? If yes, list all occurrences, including the name of the consulting firm, name of project, date of contract and reason consulting firm did not fulfill the contract.

### **Answer:**

The Department has not identified any instances where a consulting firm has not fulfilled its contract.

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## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000027

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written.    **Hansard Pagels:** *N/A*

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

### **Question:**

7. Has the Department of Social Services terminated any consultancy contract and why in the last ten years?

### **Answer:**

The Department has not been able to locate any records that indicate any termination.

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**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000028

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written. **Hansard Page/s:**N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

**Question:**

8. Have any contracts been the subject of dispute or legal action in the last ten years?

**Answer:**

The Department has not been able to locate any such records.



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## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000029

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written. **Hansard Pagels:** *N/A*

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

### **Question:**

9. List all contracts awarded to PwC since 16 November 2022 to date. Include:
  - a. name of project
  - b. type of project (advice, evaluation, service delivery etc..)
  - c. cost
  - d. contract commencement date
  - e. contract finalisation date.

### **Answer:**

The Department of Social Services has not awarded any contracts with PwC since 16 November 2022.

Details on each consultancy engagement is published on AusTender.

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee**

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## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

### **Department of Social Services**

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000030

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written.

**Hansard Pagels:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

#### **Question:**

The following questions relate to the below consulting/accounting firms that will be referred to as the "Big 7." If answering in the affirmative to any of the below questions, specify which of the Big 7 firms you are referring to.

- Deloitte
- EY
- KPMG
- PwC
- McKinsey
- Boston Consulting
- Accenture

10. Are any former partners of each of the Big 7 employed at the Department of Social Services?

#### **Answer:**

No staff in the Department have advised they were former partners of these 7 firms.

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## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000031

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written. **Hansard Pagels:** *N/A*

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

### **Question:**

11. Are any of these former partners receiving ongoing payments from their former association with these firms, including as part of any retirement plans?

### **Answer:**

Please refer to IQ23-000030.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee**

23 March 2023

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000032

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written.

**Hansard Pagels:** *N/A*

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

**Question:**

12. Has the Department of Social Services established if these ongoing payments are tied to the financial performance these firms?

**Answer:**

Please refer to IQ23-000030.

## **Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee**

23 March 2023

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000033

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written.    **Hansard Pagels:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

#### **Question:**

13. Are any former partners of each of the Big 7 appointed to any boards or sub-committees of the Department of Social Services?
14. Are any of these former partners receiving ongoing payments from their former association with these firms, including as part of any retirement plans?
15. Has the Department of Social Services established if these ongoing payments are tied to the financial performance these firms?

#### **Answer:**

The department does not collect information to track former partners of the Big7 in relation to Board positions or sub-committees of the department.

The department's conflict of interest policy requires consultants, board, committee and panel members engaged by the department to complete a conflict of interest declaration on commencement notifying the department of private interests, both financial and personal, that present a real or apparent conflict with their official duties. The policy also obliges those individuals to take reasonable steps to avoid any conflict of interest (real or apparent) in connection with their official duties.

# Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

23 March 2023

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

### Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000036

**Question asked by:** Barbara Pocock

**Type of Question:** Written. **Hansard Pagels:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 14 April 2023

#### **Question:**

16. Are any former partners of the Big 7 involved in any policy consultation committees, panels or other formal processes at the Department of Social Service?

17. Are any of these former partners receiving ongoing payments from their former association with these firms, including as part of any retirement plans?

18. Has the Department of Social Services established if these ongoing payments are tied to the financial performance these firms?

#### **Answer:**

The department does not collect information to track former partners of the Big 7 in relation to policy consultation committees, panels or other formal processes.

The department's conflict of interest policy requires consultants, board, committee and panel members engaged by the department to complete a conflict of interest declaration on commencement notifying the department of private interests, both financial and personal, that present a real or apparent conflict with their official duties. The policy also obliges those individuals to take reasonable steps to avoid, any conflict of interest (real or apparent) in connection with their official duties.

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